K

Cowboy ROMANCES

a BIG
52 PAGE
magazine

OCT. 10¢

MY
RENEGADE
ROMANCE!

The OUTLAW
and the LADY!
AND OTHER TRUE TALES!

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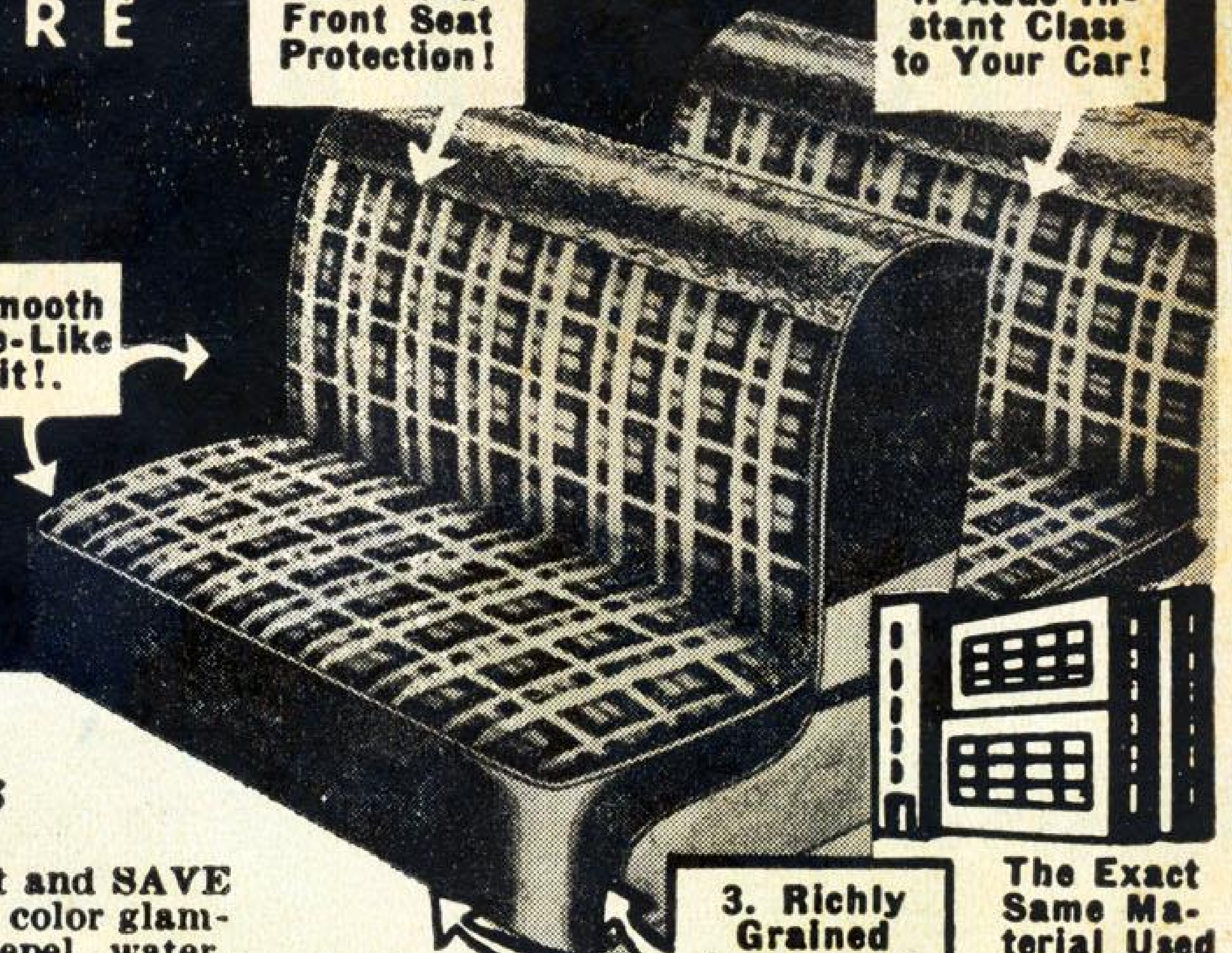

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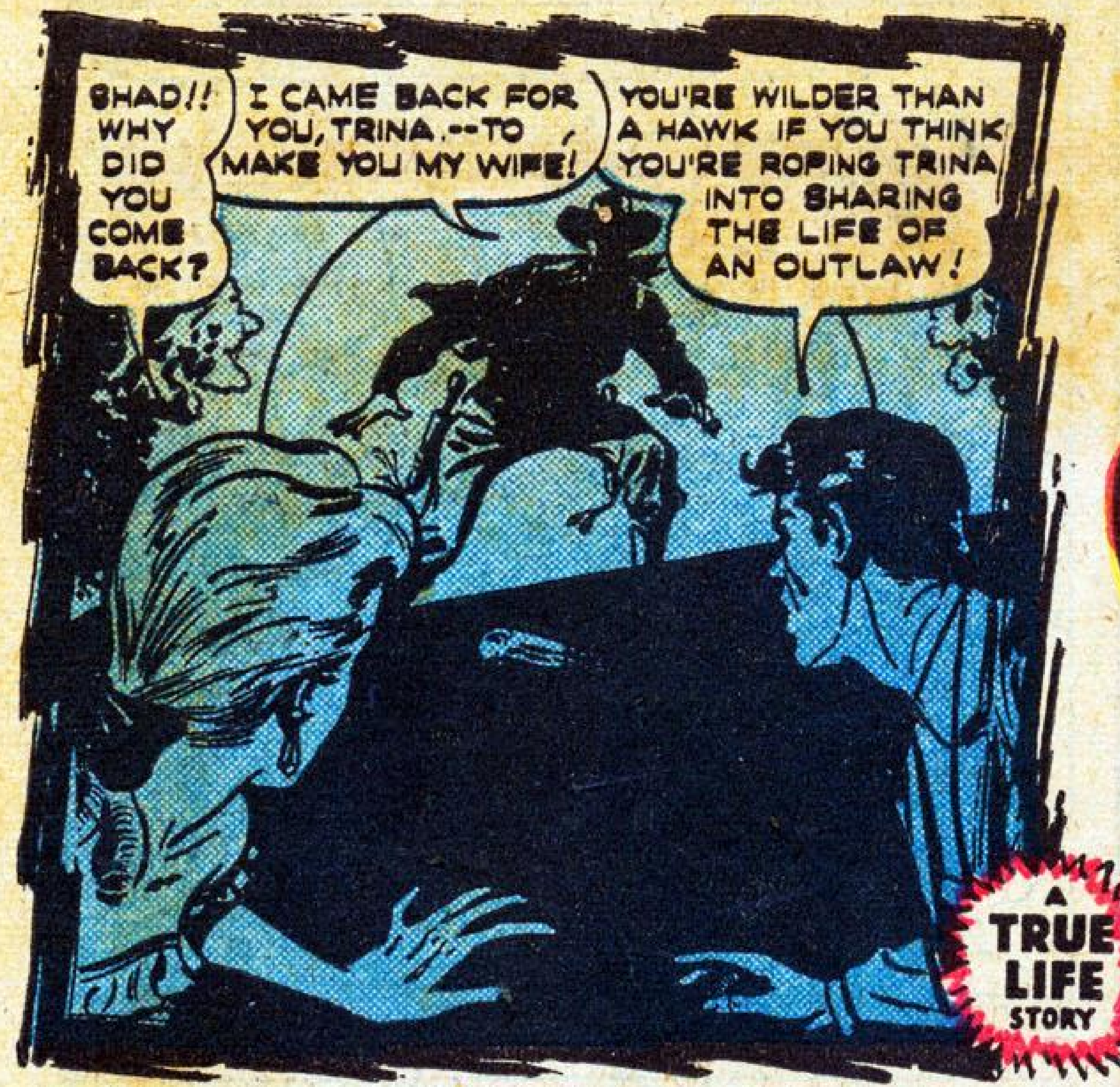
Cowboy Romances #1


SHAD!! WHY DID YOU COME BACK?
I CAME BACK FOR YOU, TRINA.--TO MAKE YOU MY WIFE!
YOU'RE WILDER THAN A HAWK IF YOU THINK YOU'RE ROPING TRINA INTO SHARING THE LIFE OF AN OUTLAW!
A TRUE LIFE STORY

I KNEW I HAD CHOSEN THE WRONG MAN... BUT I FELT I HAD TO GO THRU WITH IT... EVEN THOUGH MY HEART TOLD ME IT COULD ONLY END IN TRAGEDY... AND DEATH!!!

"THE OUTLAW AND THE LADY!"

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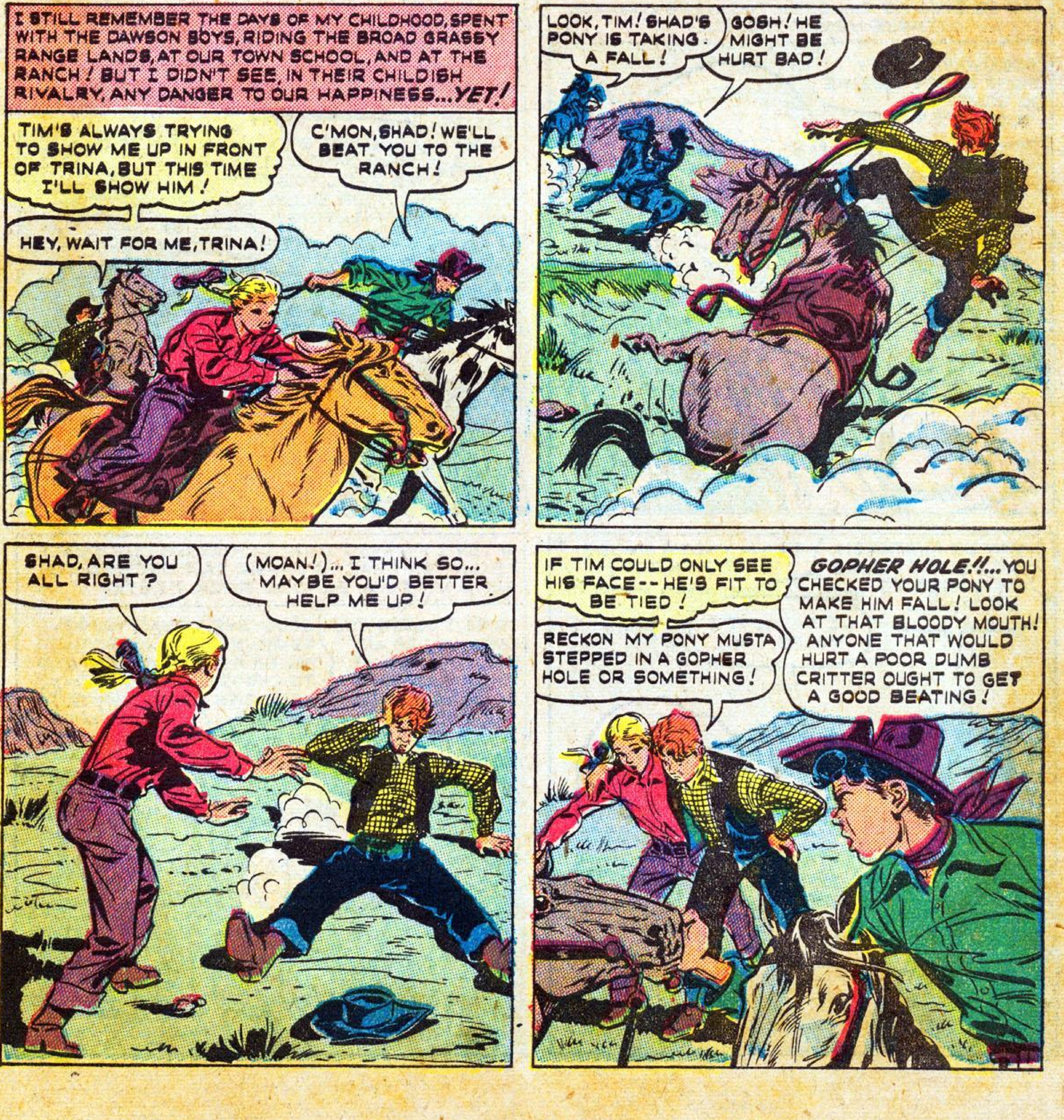
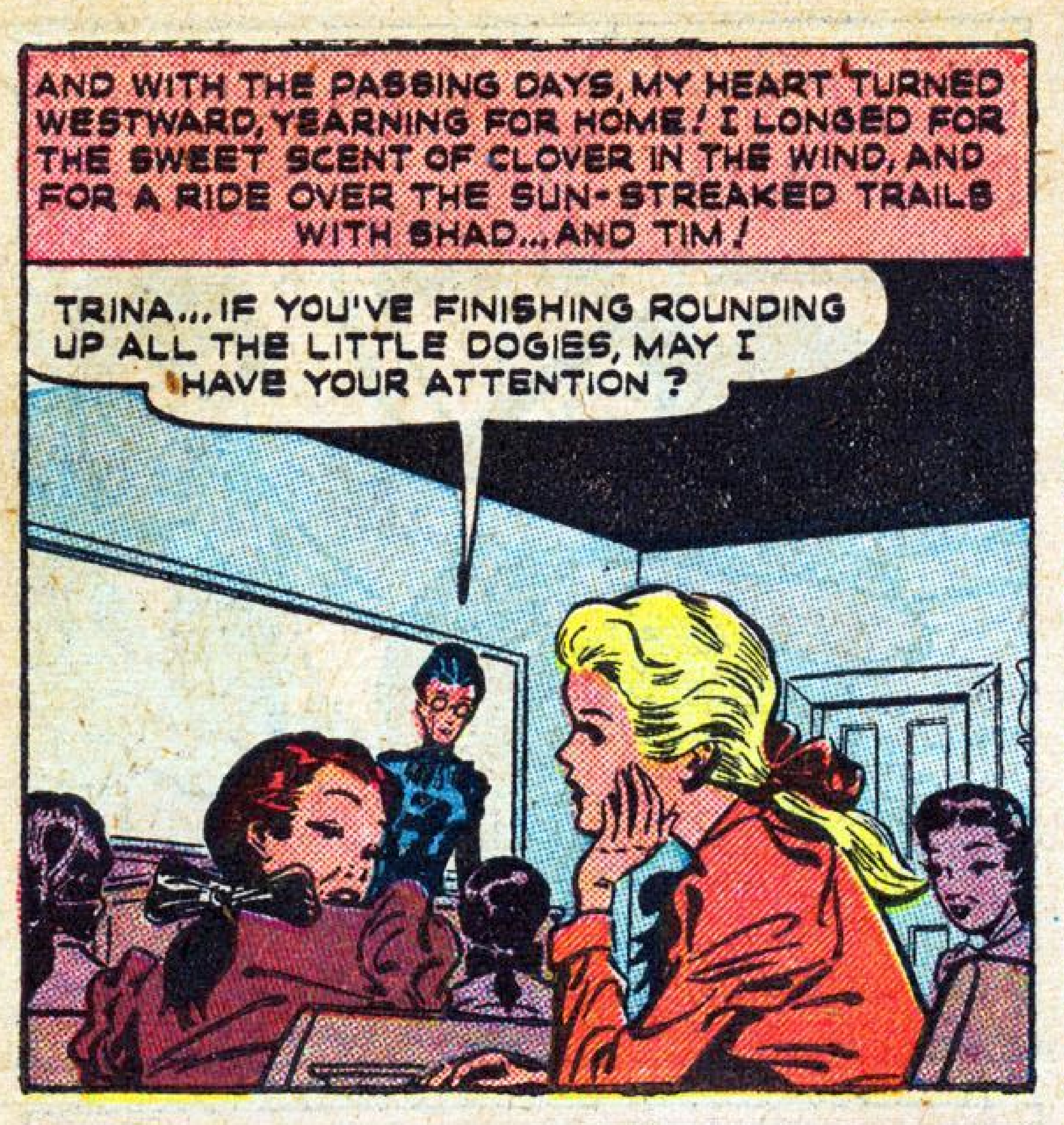
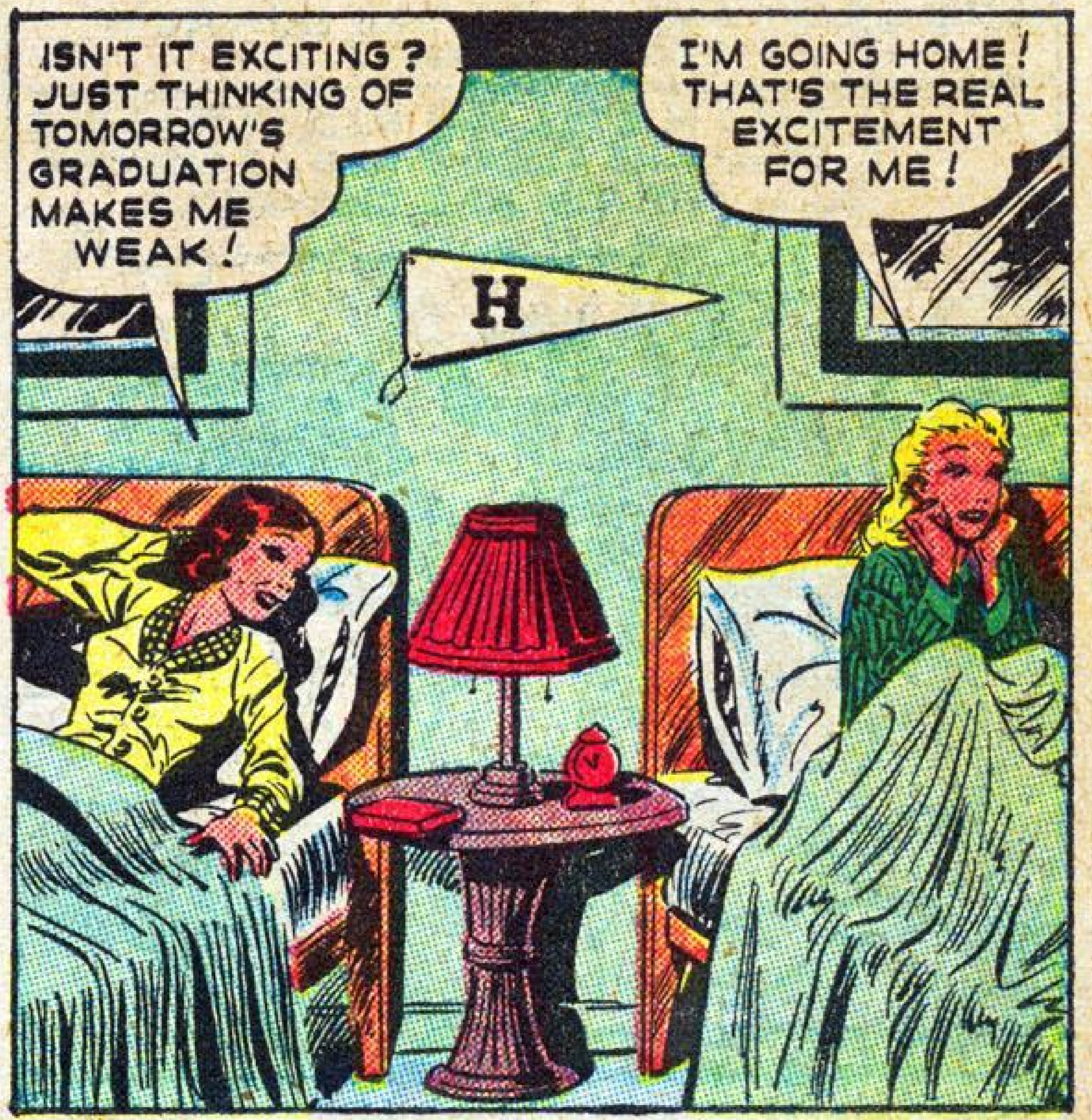
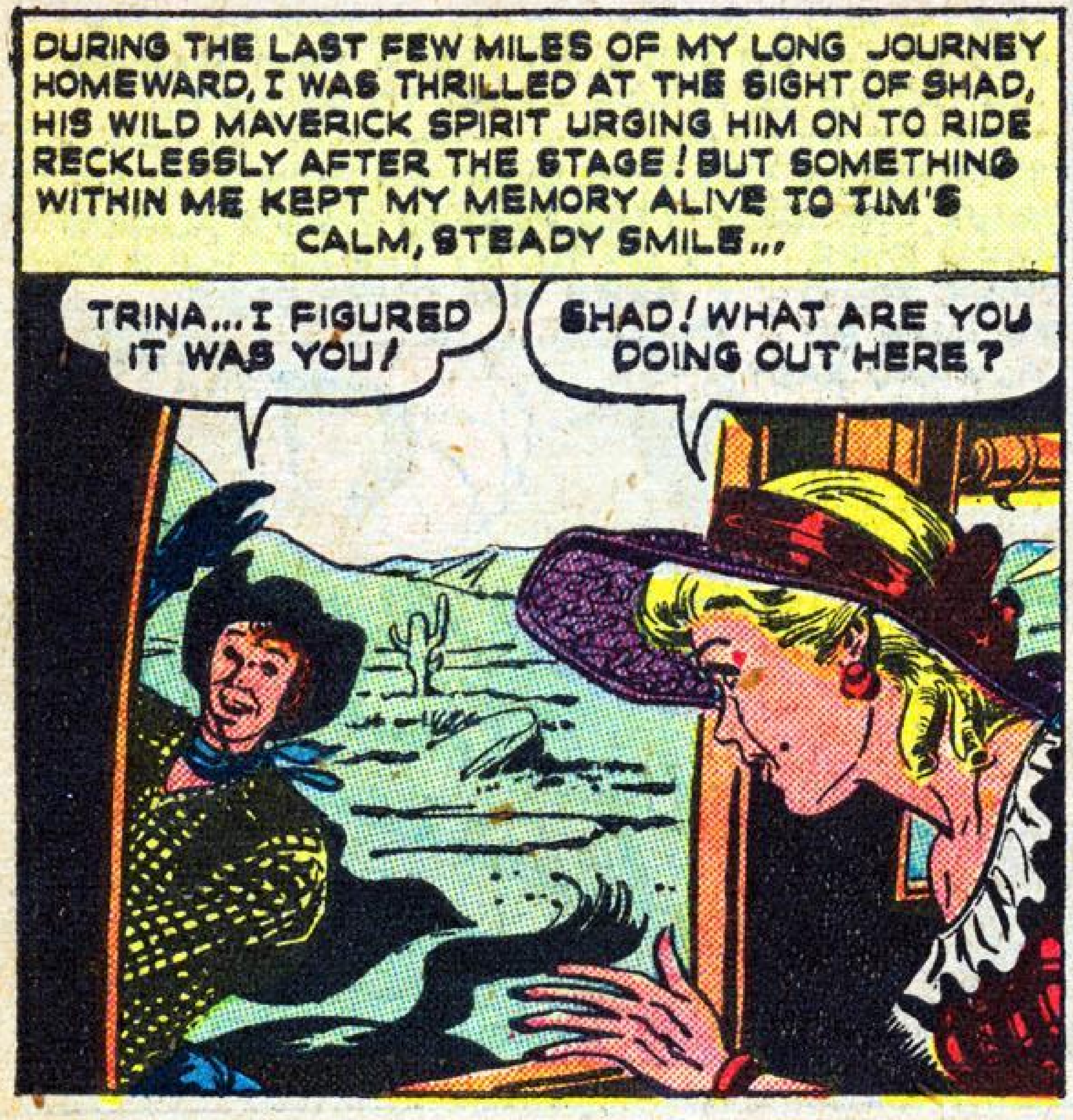
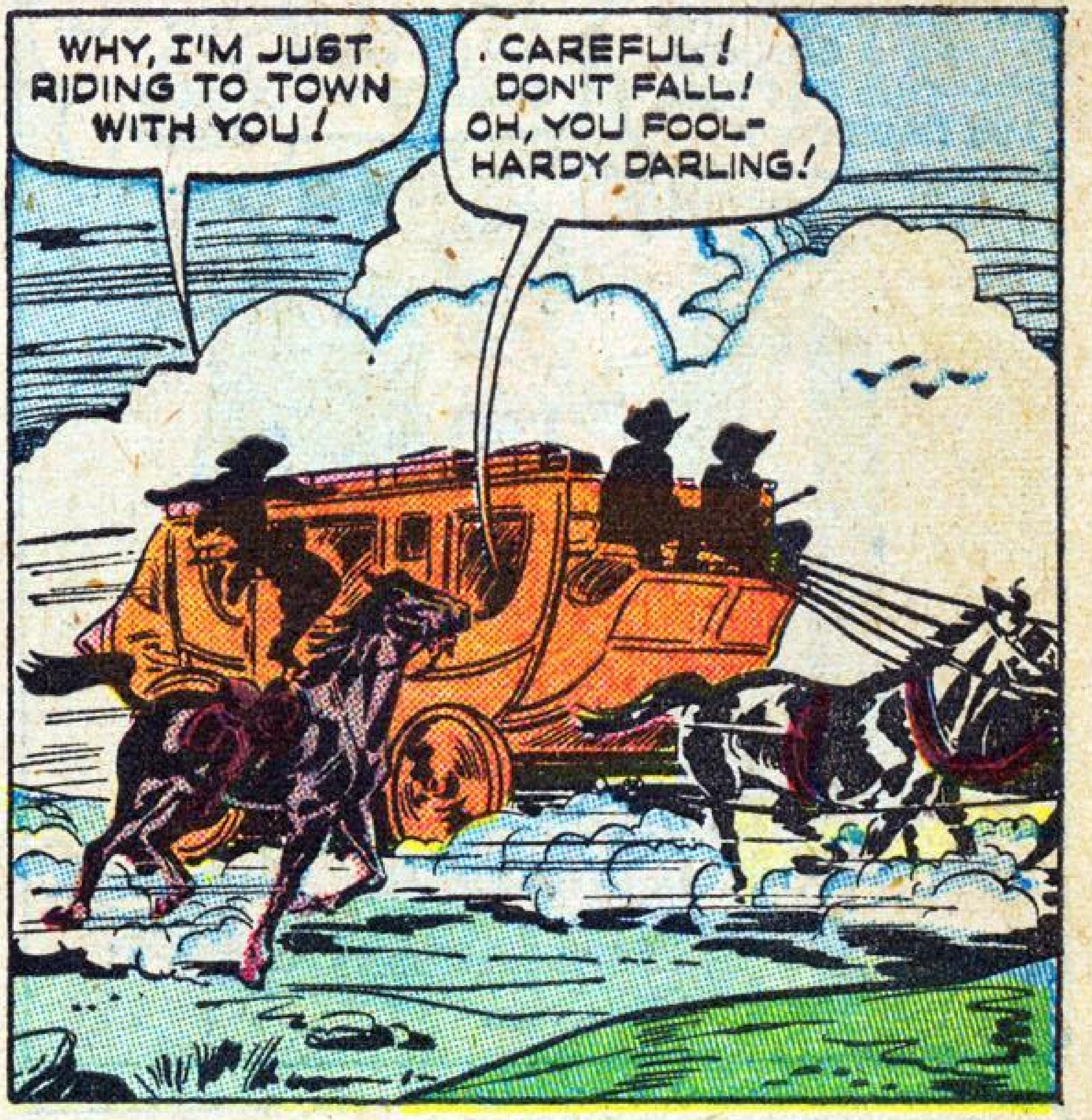

I STILL REMEMBER THE DAYS OF MY CHILDHOOD, SPENT WITH THE DAWSON BOYS, RIDING THE BROAD GRASSY RANGE LANDS, AT OUR TOWN SCHOOL, AND AT THE RANCH! BUT I DIDN'T SEE, IN THEIR CHILDISH RIVALRY, ANY DANGER TO OUR HAPPINESS...YET!
TIM'S ALWAYS TRYING TO SHOW ME UP IN FRONT OF TRINA, BUT THIS TIME I'LL SHOW HIM!
C'MON, SHAD! WE'LL BEAT YOU TO THE RANCH!
HEY, WAIT FOR ME, TRINA!
LOOK, TIM! SHAD'S PONY IS TAKING A FALL!
GOSH! HE MIGHT BE HURT BAD!
SHAD, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
(MOAN!)... I THINK SO... MAYBE YOU'D BETTER HELP ME UP!
IF TIM COULD ONLY SEE HIS FACE-- HE'S FIT TO BE TIED!
RECKON MY PONY MUSTA STEPPED IN A GOPHER HOLE OR SOMETHING!
GOPHER HOLE!!!... YOU CHECKED YOUR PONY TO MAKE HIM FALL! LOOK AT THAT BLOODY MOUTH! ANYONE THAT WOULD HURT A POOR DUMB CRITTER OUGHT TO GET A GOOD BEATING!

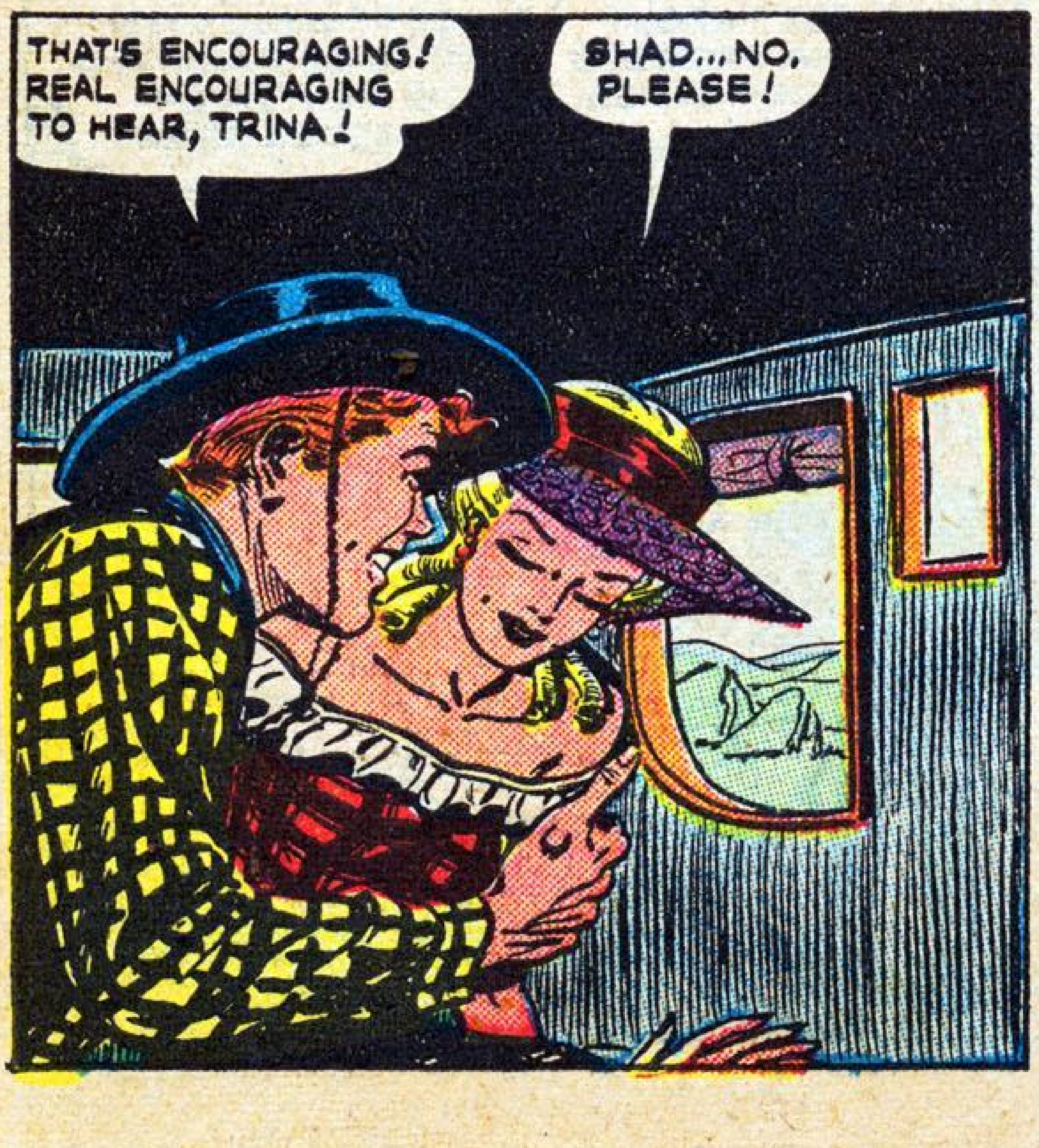
WELL, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO DO IT!
TIM! SHAD! DON'T FIGHT... YOU'LL HURT EACH OTHER!
(SOB!) PLEASE, BOYS!... DON'T FIGHT!
HE CAN'T HURT *ME*, TRINA!
(GASP!)... TRINA... GO HOME!
AND SO, EVEN AS CHILDREN, TWO WERE COMPANY... THREE MEANT TROUBLE!
(SOB!) WHY DO THEY FIGHT EVERY TIME WE DO SOMETHING TOGETHER?
AS WE GREW OLDER, I HOPED THERE WOULD BE AN END TO THE RIVALRY BETWEEN TIM AND SHAD DAWSON! BUT I HOPED IN VAIN...
I GUESS THIS IS OUR DANCE, TRINA!
OH, NO IT'S NOT! I GOT ALL OF TRINA'S DANCES!
NEITHER OF YOU WILL DANCE WITH ME UNTIL YOU STOP YOUR SILLY FIGHTING!
I MAY BE MISTAKEN, SHAD... BUT I FIGURE THIS DANCE TO BE MINE...
TRINA KNOWS WHOSE DANCE THIS IS!
...I THINK IT'S YOURS, TIM...
AFTER I FINISHED WHAT SCHOOLING OUR SMALL TEXAN TOWN HAD TO OFFER, DAD DECIDED TO SEND ME TO A SCHOOL BACK EAST...
TRINA, I GUESS YOU KNOW YOU'RE MY GIRL! I'M HOPING WHEN YOU COME BACK, YOU'LL BE THE ONE TO TELL THAT TO TIM!
GOOD-BYE, TRINA! REMEMBER -- YOU'RE FREE TO CHOOSE YOUR OWN LOVE!
YOU'RE BOTH SWEET AND I'M A LUCKY GIRL! WRITE TO ME -- I'LL MISS YOU BOTH! GOOD-BYE, TIM, SHAD!

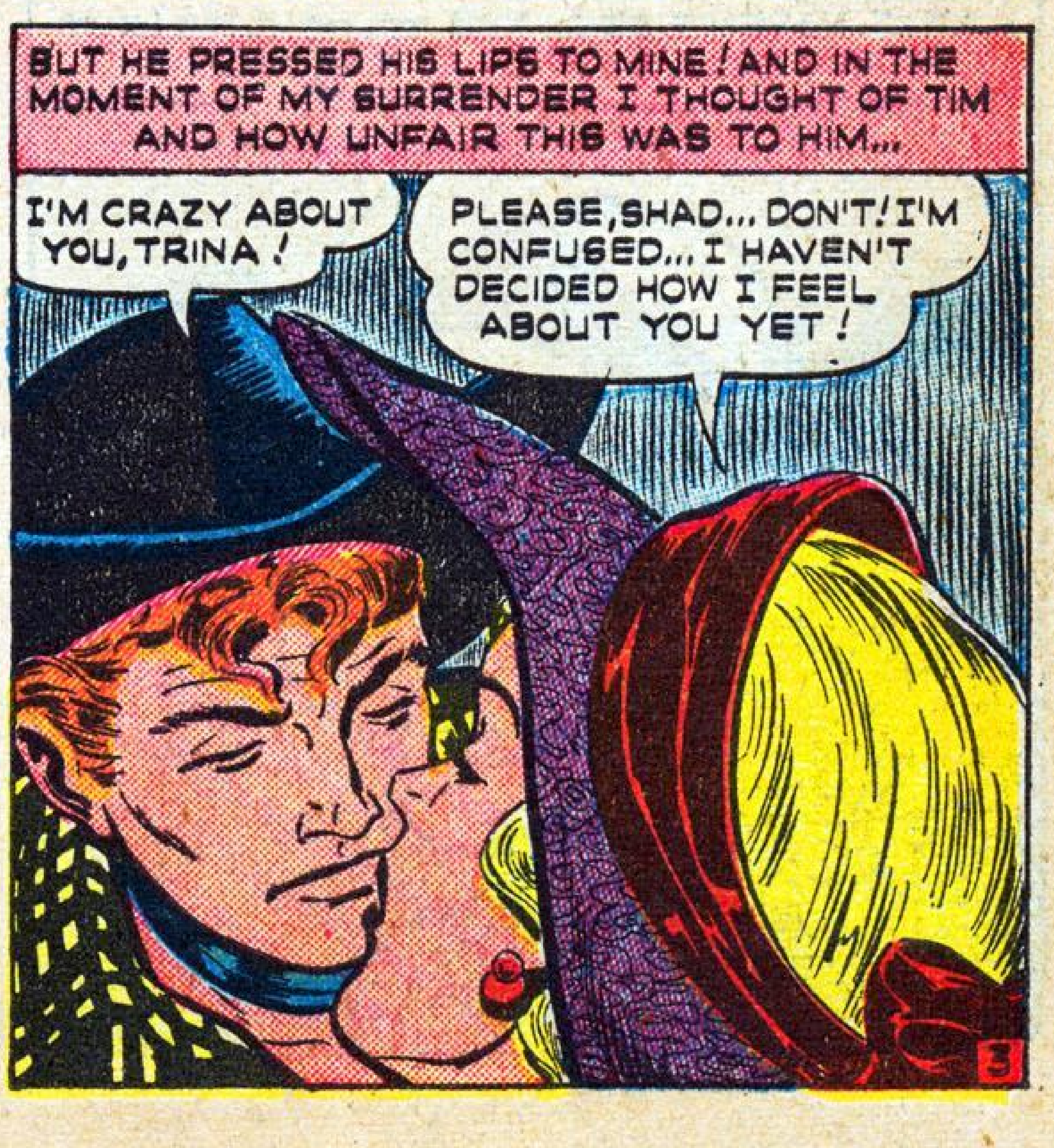

AND WITH THE PASSING DAYS, MY HEART TURNED WESTWARD, YEARNING FOR HOME! I LONGED FOR THE SWEET SCENT OF CLOVER IN THE WIND, AND FOR A RIDE OVER THE SUN-STREAKED TRAILS WITH SHAD... AND TIM!
TRINA... IF YOU'VE FINISHING ROUNDING UP ALL THE LITTLE DOGIES, MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION?

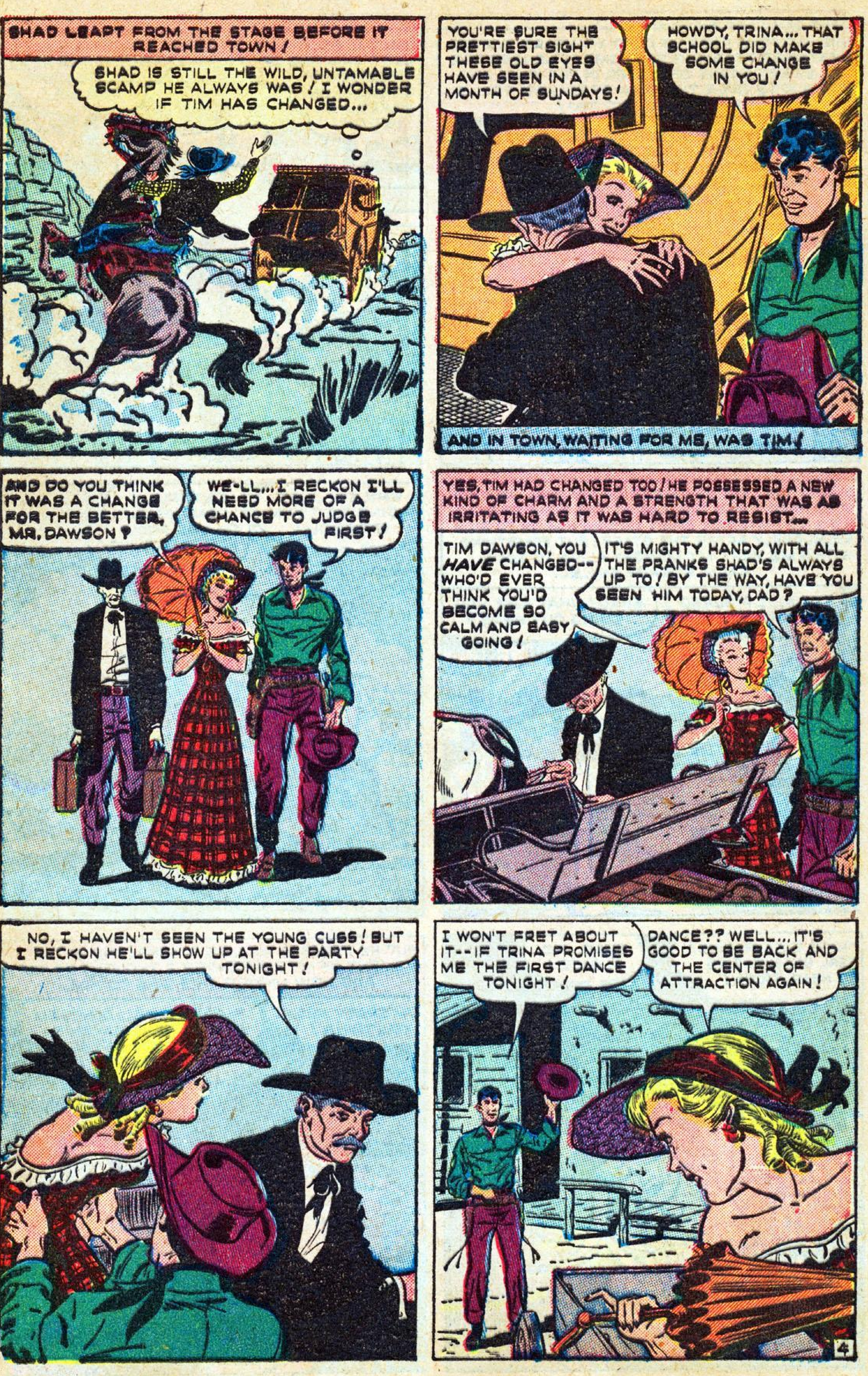

ISN'T IT EXCITING? JUST THINKING OF TOMORROW'S GRADUATION MAKES ME WEAK!
I'M GOING HOME! THAT'S THE REAL EXCITEMENT FOR ME!
H

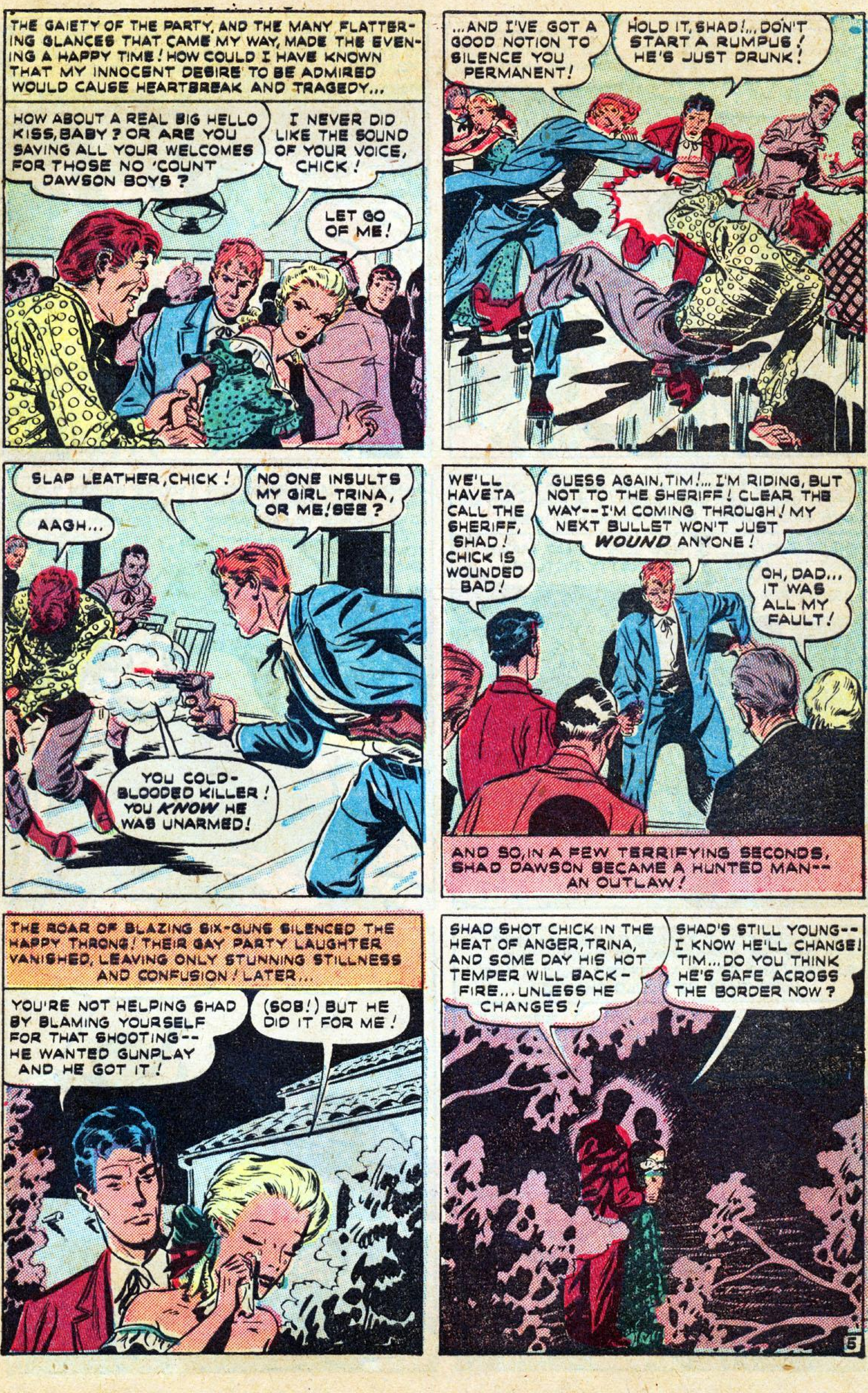

DURING THE LAST FEW MILES OF MY LONG JOURNEY HOMEWARD, I WAS THRILLED AT THE SIGHT OF SHAD, HIS WILD MAVERICK SPIRIT URGING HIM ON TO RIDE RECKLESSLY AFTER THE STAGE! BUT SOMETHING WITHIN ME KEPT MY MEMORY ALIVE TO TIM'S CALM, STEADY SMILE...
TRINA... I FIGURED IT WAS YOU!
SHAD! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?

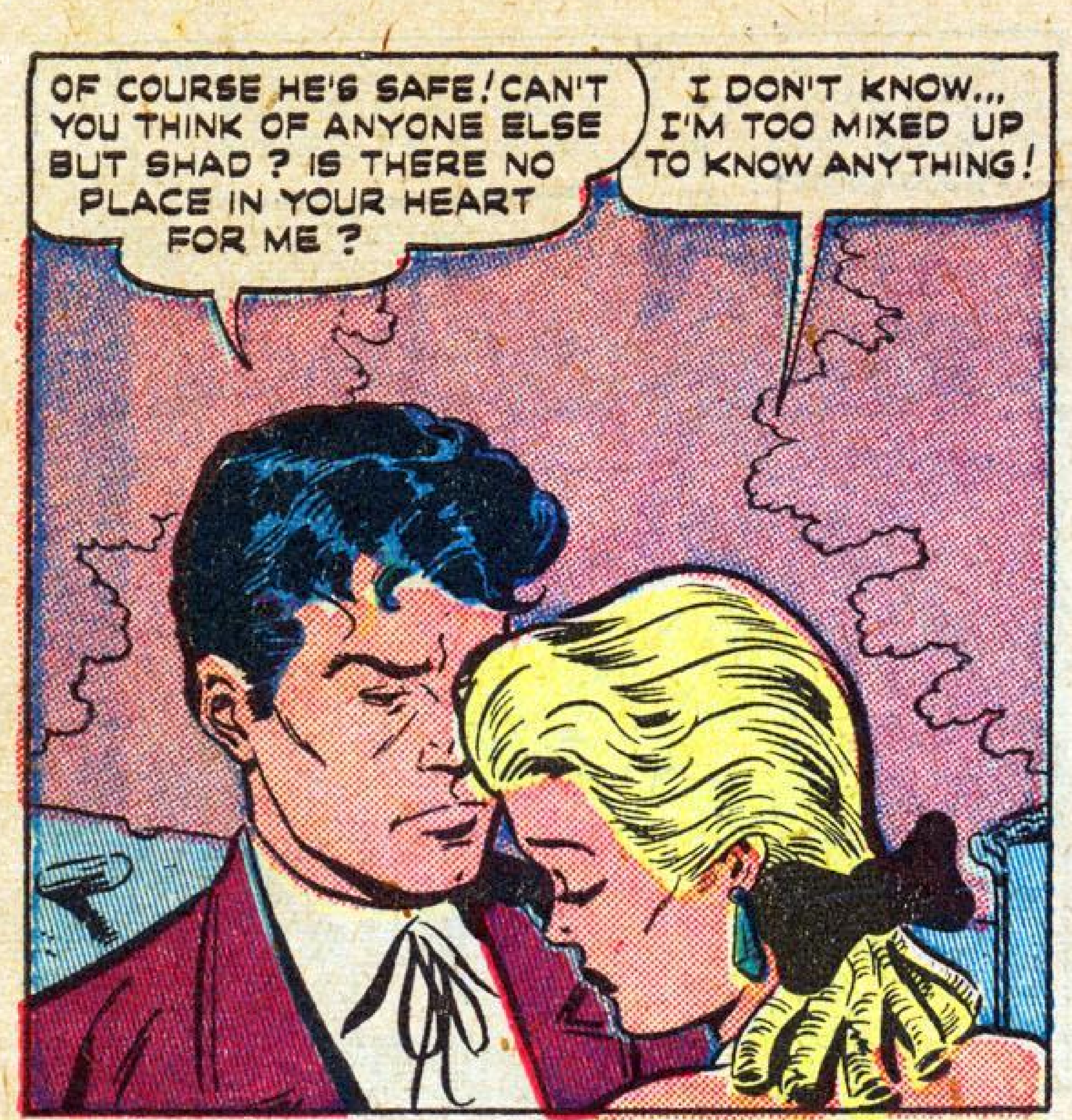

WHY, I'M JUST RIDING TO TOWN WITH YOU!
CAREFUL! DON'T FALL! OH, YOU FOOL-HARDY DARLING!

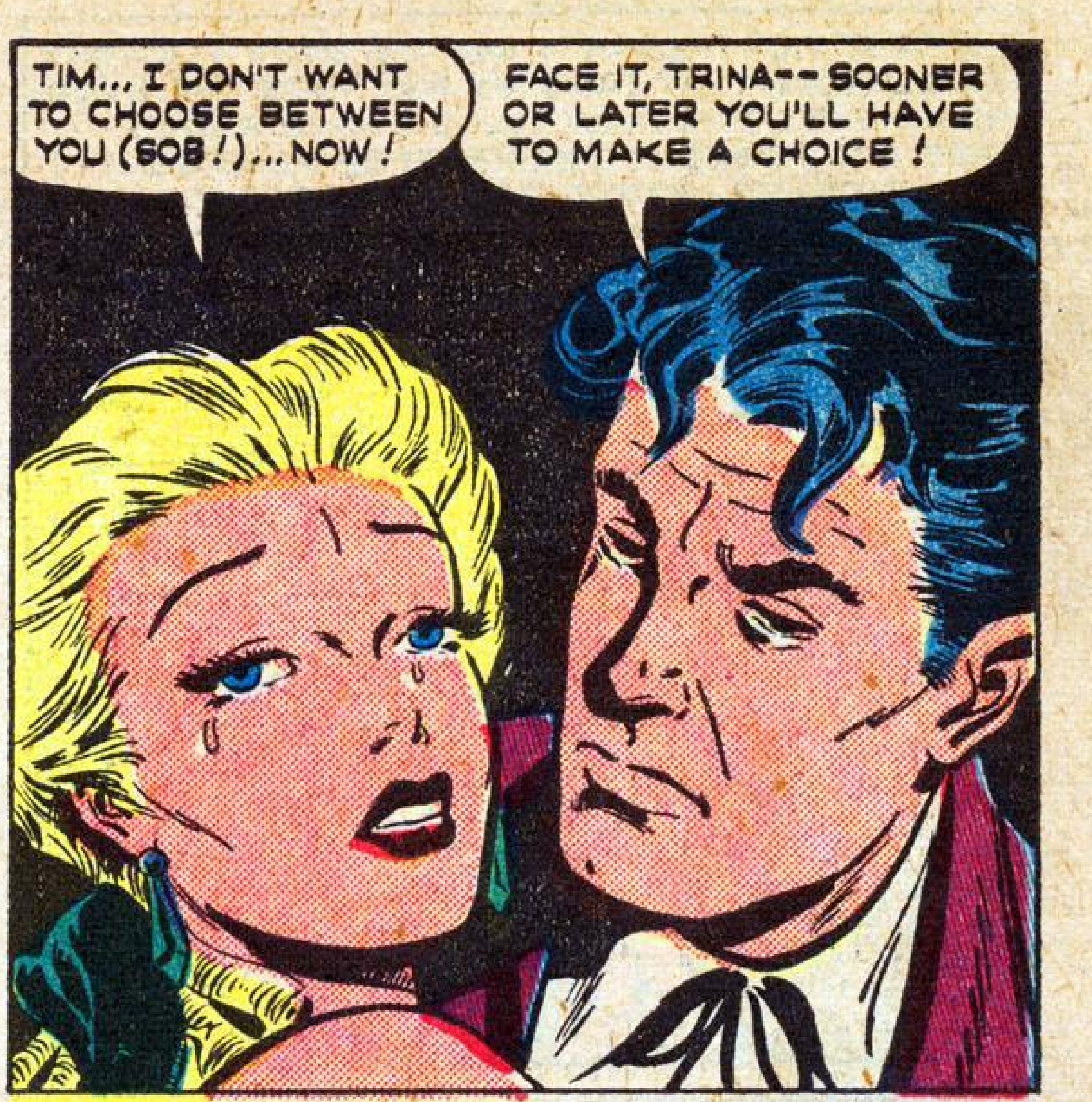

THAT'S ENCOURAGING! REAL ENCOURAGING TO HEAR, TRINA!
SHAD... NO, PLEASE!

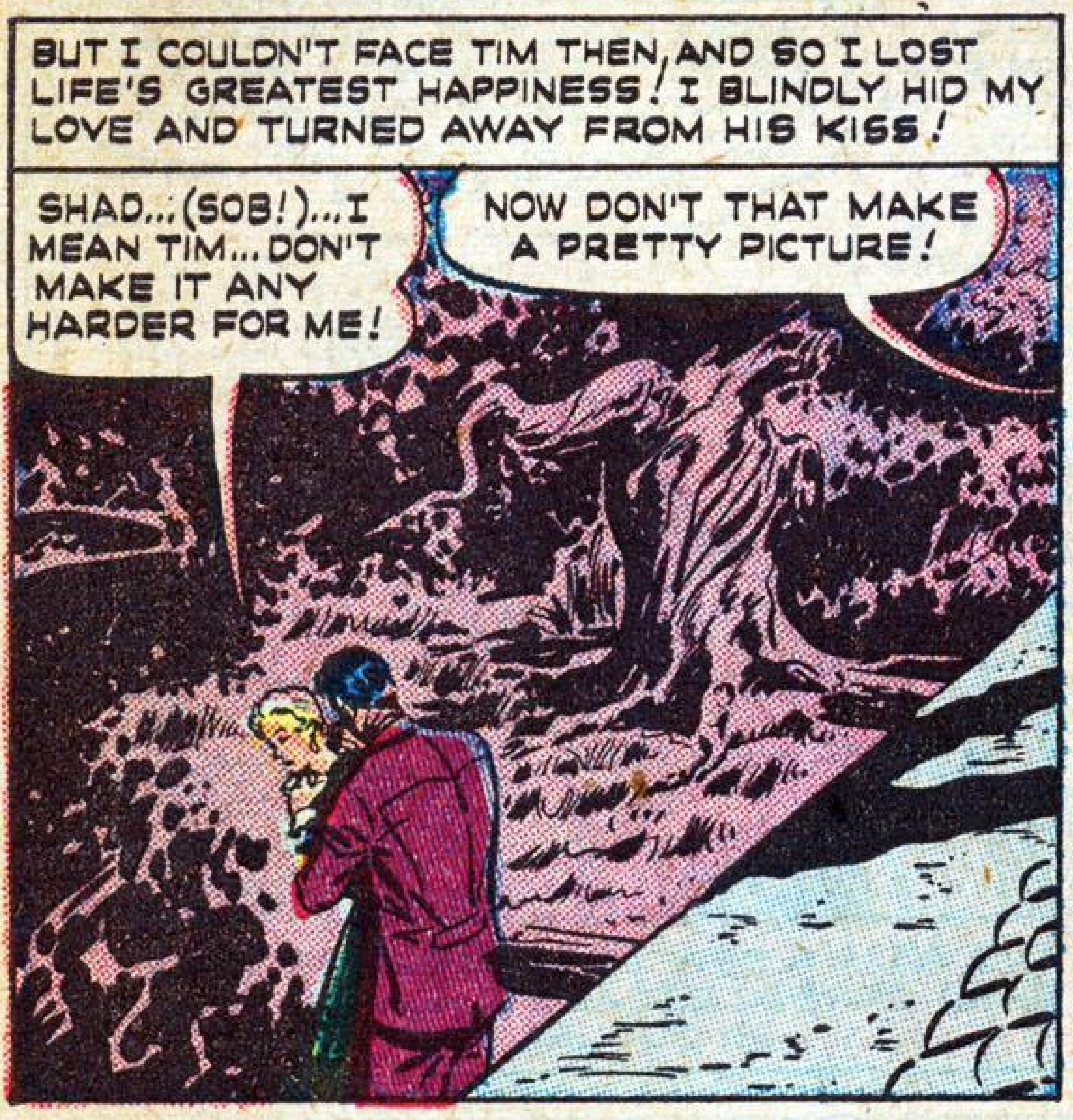

BUT HE PRESSED HIS LIPS TO MINE! AND IN THE MOMENT OF MY SURRENDER I THOUGHT OF TIM AND HOW UNFAIR THIS WAS TO HIM...
I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU, TRINA!
PLEASE, SHAD... DON'T! I'M CONFUSED... I HAVEN'T DECIDED HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU YET!


SHAD LEAPT FROM THE STAGE BEFORE IT REACHED TOWN!
SHAD IS STILL THE WILD, UNTAMABLE SCAMP HE ALWAYS WAS! I WONDER IF TIM HAS CHANGED...
YOU'RE SURE THE PRETTIEST SIGHT THESE OLD EYES HAVE SEEN IN A MONTH OF SUNDAYS!
HOWDY, TRINA... THAT SCHOOL DID MAKE SOME CHANGE IN YOU!
AND IN TOWN, WAITING FOR ME, WAS TIM!
AND DO YOU THINK IT WAS A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER, MR. DAWSON?
WE-LL... I RECKON I'LL NEED MORE OF A CHANCE TO JUDGE FIRST!
YES, TIM HAD CHANGED TOO! HE POSSESSED A NEW KIND OF CHARM AND A STRENGTH THAT WAS AS IRRITATING AS IT WAS HARD TO RESIST...
TIM DAWSON, YOU HAVE CHANGED-- WHO'D EVER THINK YOU'D BECOME SO CALM AND EASY GOING!
IT'S MIGHTY HANDY, WITH ALL THE PRANKS SHAD'S ALWAYS UP TO! BY THE WAY, HAVE YOU SEEN HIM TODAY, DAD?
NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN THE YOUNG CUSS! BUT I RECKON HE'LL SHOW UP AT THE PARTY TONIGHT!
I WON'T FRET ABOUT IT--IF TRINA PROMISES ME THE FIRST DANCE TONIGHT!
DANCE?? WELL... IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK AND THE CENTER OF ATTRACTION AGAIN!
4

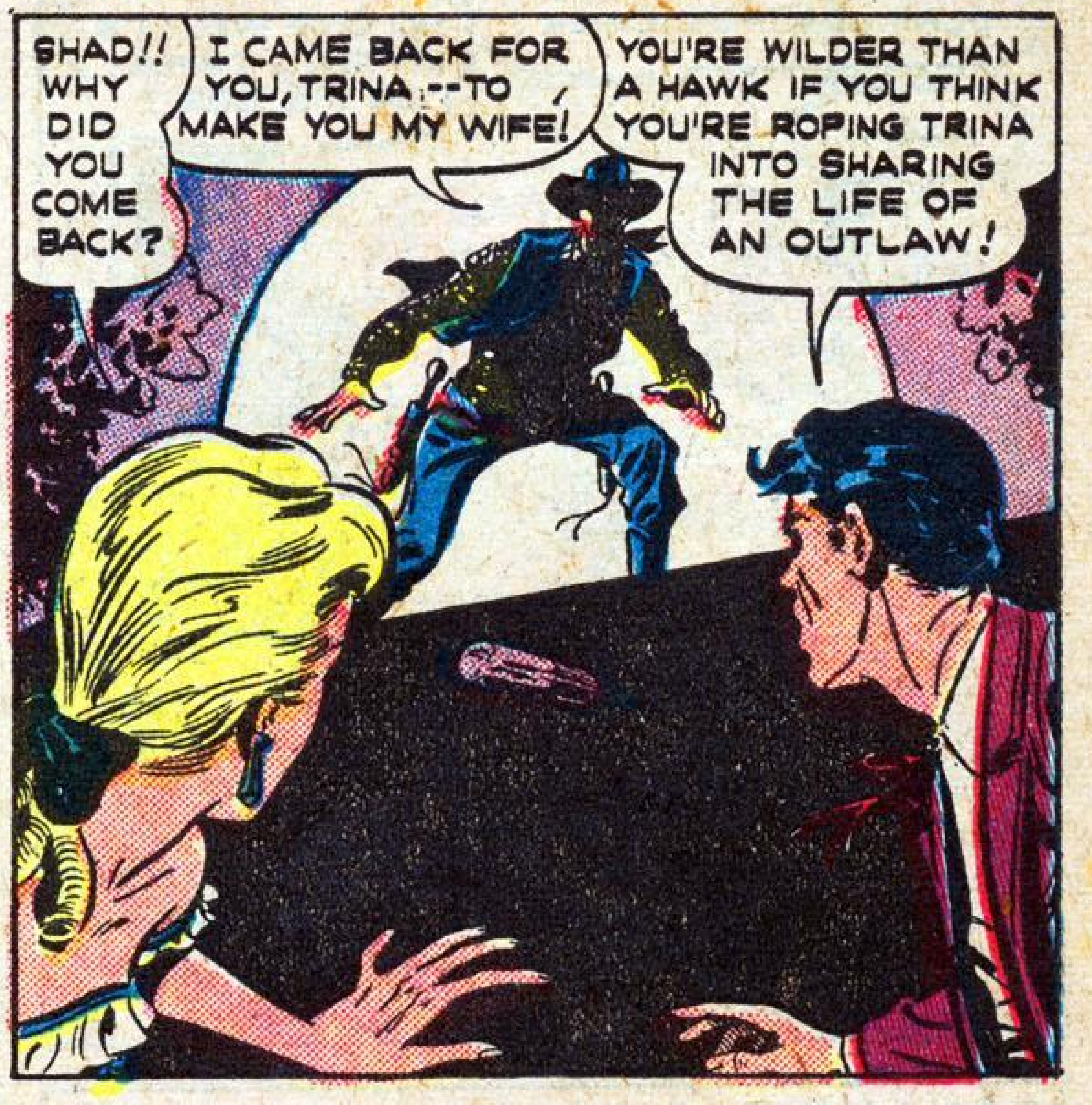

THE GAIETY OF THE PARTY, AND THE MANY FLATTERING GLANCES THAT CAME MY WAY, MADE THE EVENING A HAPPY TIME! HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN THAT MY INNOCENT DESIRE TO BE ADMIRED WOULD CAUSE HEARTBREAK AND TRAGEDY...
HOW ABOUT A REAL BIG HELLO KISS, BABY? OR ARE YOU SAVING ALL YOUR WELCOMES FOR THOSE NO 'COUNT DAWSON BOYS?
I NEVER DID LIKE THE SOUND OF YOUR VOICE, CHICK!
LET GO OF ME!
...AND I'VE GOT A GOOD NOTION TO SILENCE YOU PERMANENT!
HOLD IT, SHAD!... DON'T START A RUMPUS! HE'S JUST DRUNK!
SLAP LEATHER, CHICK!
NO ONE INSULTS MY GIRL TRINA, OR ME! SEE?
AAGH...
YOU COLD-BLOODED KILLER! YOU *KNOW* HE WAS UNARMED!
WE'LL HAVETA CALL THE SHERIFF, SHAD! CHICK IS WOUNDED BAD!
GUESS AGAIN, TIM!... I'M RIDING, BUT NOT TO THE SHERIFF! CLEAR THE WAY--I'M COMING THROUGH! MY NEXT BULLET WON'T JUST **WOUND** ANYONE!
OH, DAD... IT WAS ALL MY FAULT!
AND SO, IN A FEW TERRIFYING SECONDS, SHAD DAWSON BECAME A HUNTED MAN--AN OUTLAW!
THE ROAR OF BLAZING SIX-GUNS SILENCED THE HAPPY THRONG! THEIR GAY PARTY LAUGHTER VANISHED, LEAVING ONLY STUNNING STILLNESS AND CONFUSION! LATER...
YOU'RE NOT HELPING SHAD BY BLAMING YOURSELF FOR THAT SHOOTING--HE WANTED GUNPLAY AND HE GOT IT!
(SOB!) BUT HE DID IT FOR ME!
SHAD SHOT CHICK IN THE HEAT OF ANGER, TRINA, AND SOME DAY HIS HOT TEMPER WILL BACKFIRE... UNLESS HE CHANGES!
SHAD'S STILL YOUNG--I KNOW HE'LL CHANGE! TIM... DO YOU THINK HE'S SAFE ACROSS THE BORDER NOW?


OF COURSE HE'S SAFE! CAN'T YOU THINK OF ANYONE ELSE BUT SHAD? IS THERE NO PLACE IN YOUR HEART FOR ME?
I DON'T KNOW... I'M TOO MIXED UP TO KNOW ANYTHING!


TIM... I DON'T WANT TO CHOOSE BETWEEN YOU (SOB!)... NOW!
FACE IT, TRINA-- SOONER OR LATER YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE!


BUT I COULDN'T FACE TIM THEN, AND SO I LOST LIFE'S GREATEST HAPPINESS! I BLINDLY HID MY LOVE AND TURNED AWAY FROM HIS KISS!

SHAD...(SOB!)...I MEAN TIM... DON'T MAKE IT ANY HARDER FOR ME!
NOW DON'T THAT MAKE A PRETTY PICTURE!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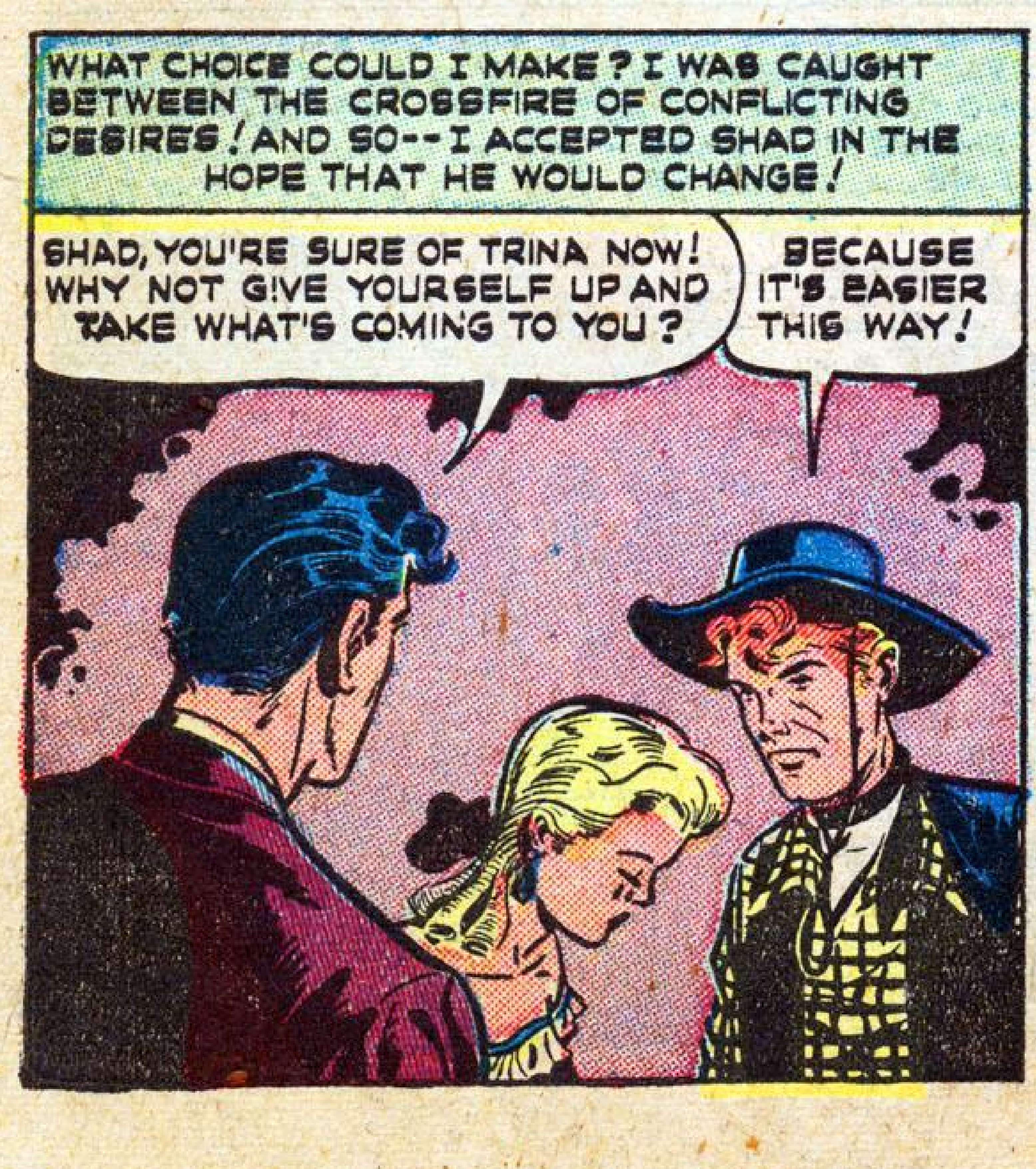
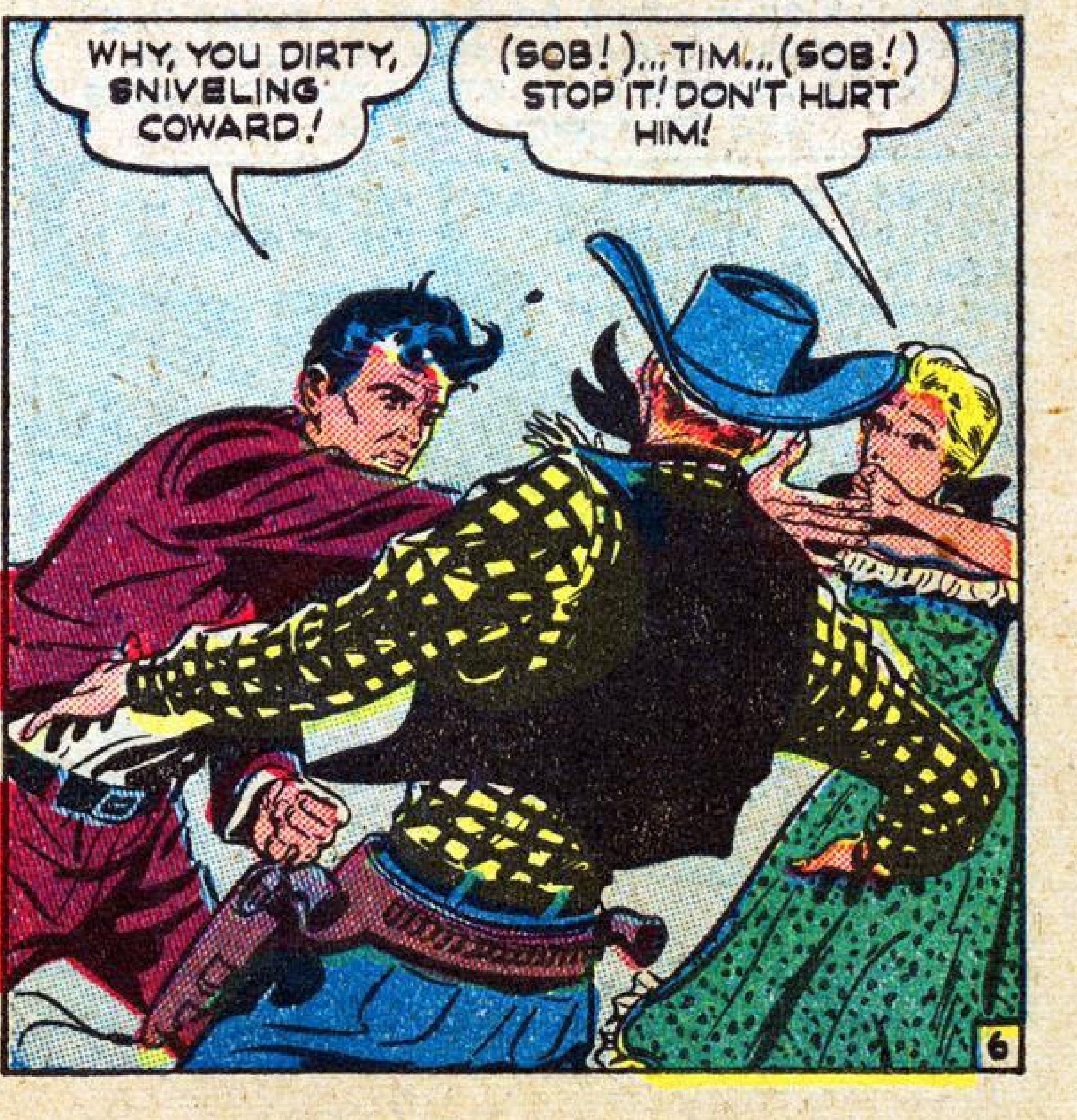
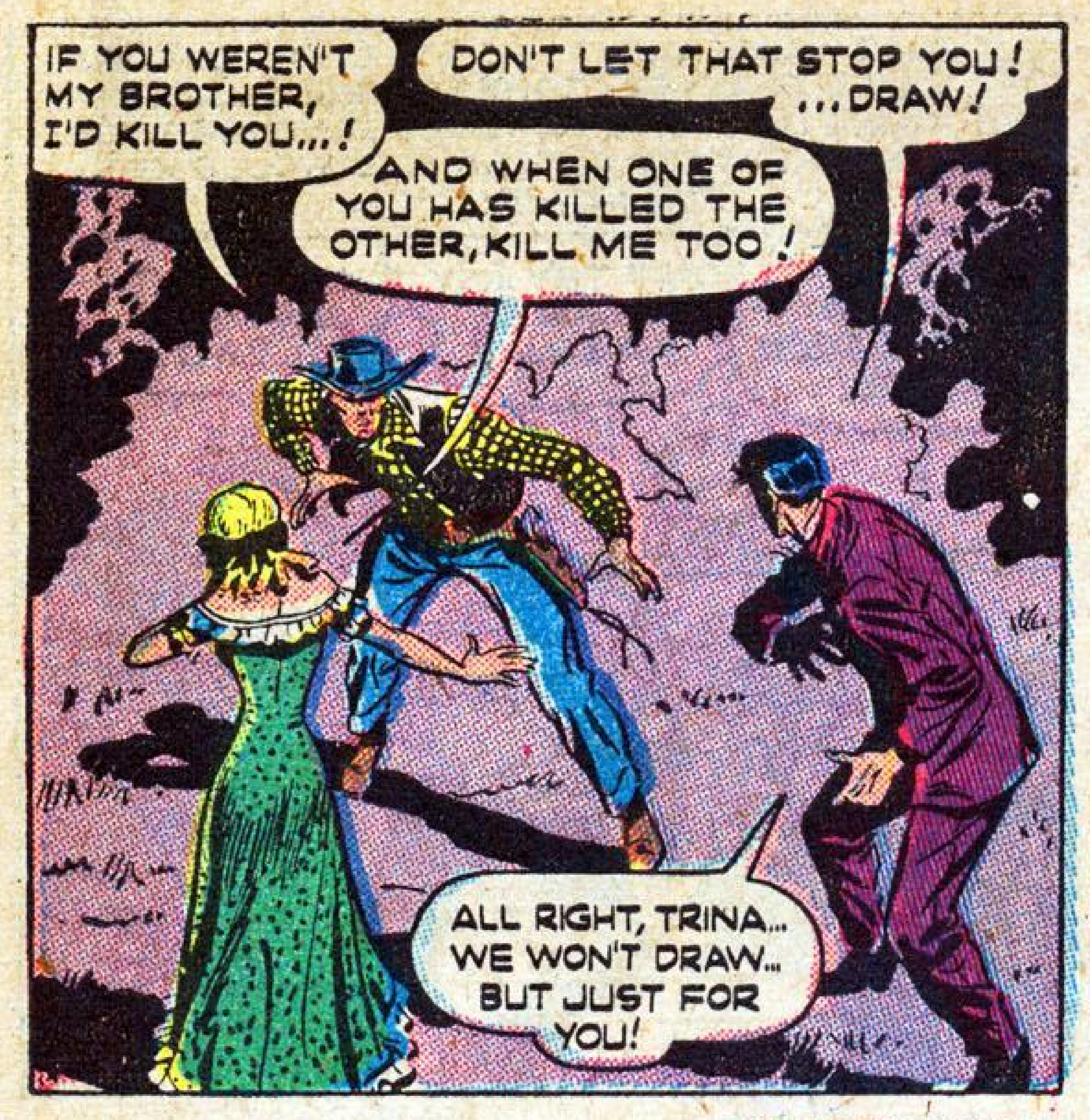
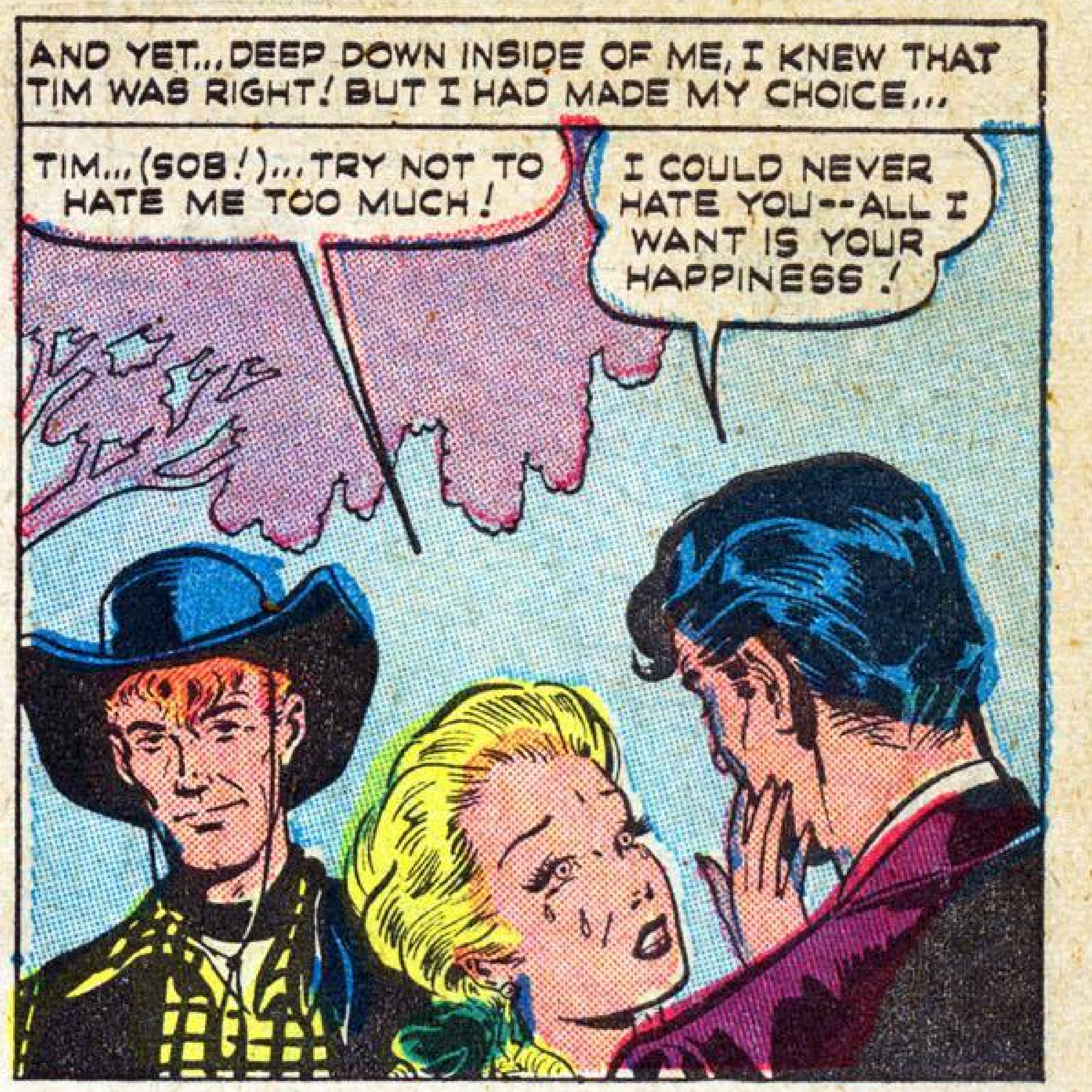
I CAME BACK FOR YOU, TRINA--TO MAKE YOU MY WIFE!
YOU'RE WILDER THAN A HAWK IF YOU THINK YOU'RE ROPING TRINA INTO SHARING THE LIFE OF AN OUTLAW!

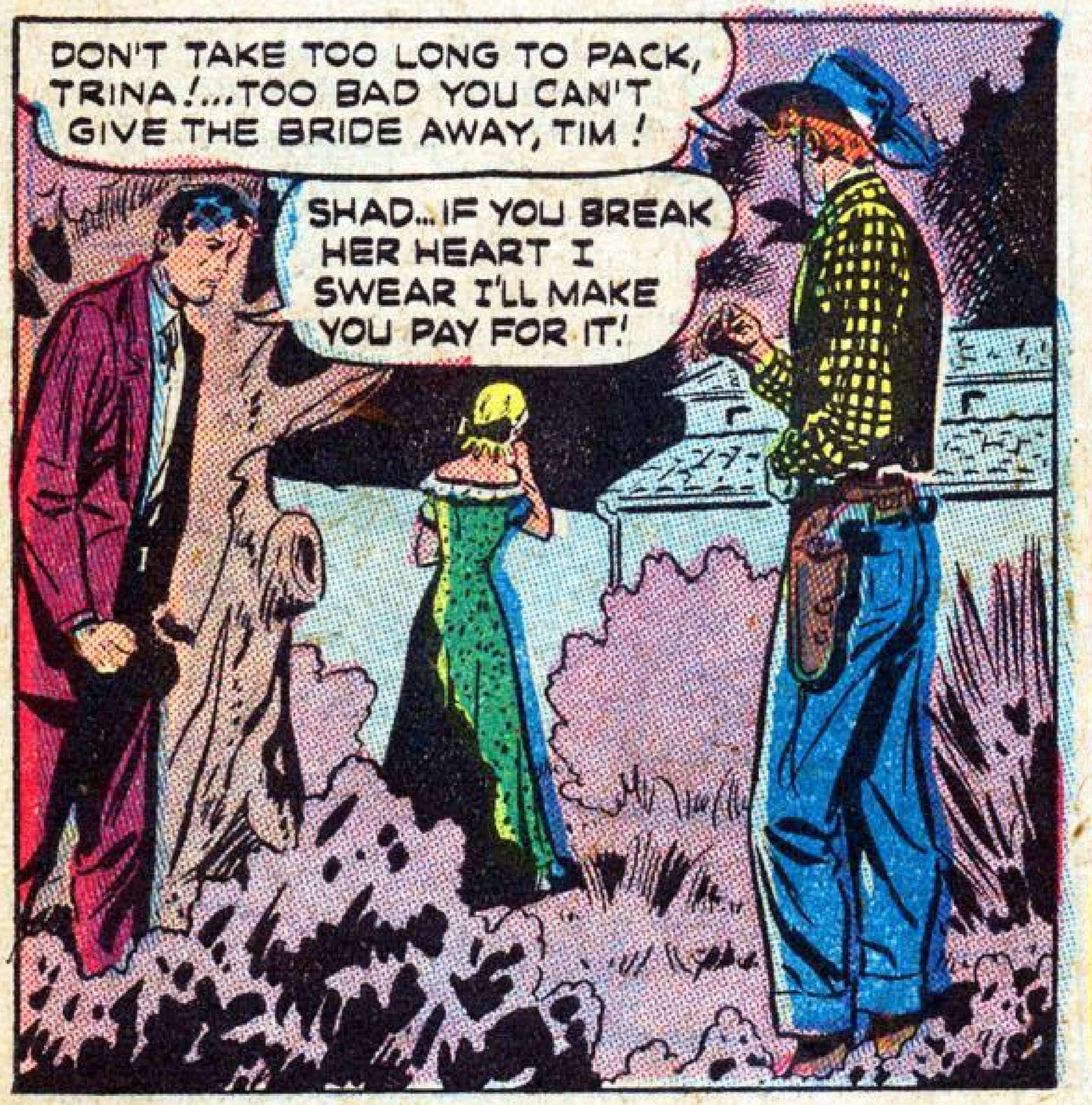

WHAT CHOICE COULD I MAKE? I WAS CAUGHT BETWEEN THE CROSSFIRE OF CONFLICTING DESIRES! AND SO-- I ACCEPTED SHAD IN THE HOPE THAT HE WOULD CHANGE!

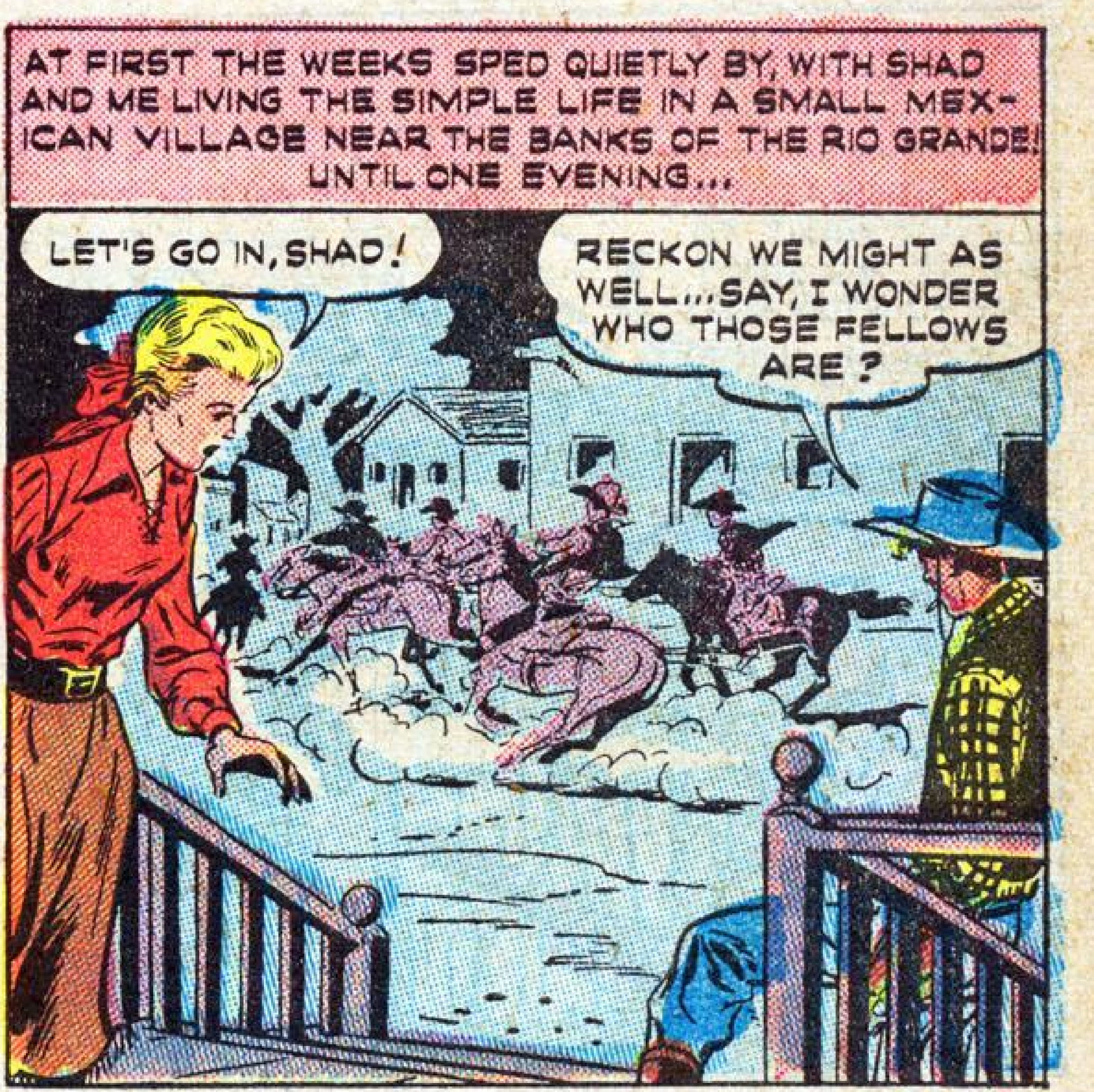
SHAD, YOU'RE SURE OF TRINA NOW! WHY NOT GIVE YOURSELF UP AND TAKE WHAT'S COMING TO YOU?
BECAUSE IT'S EASIER THIS WAY!

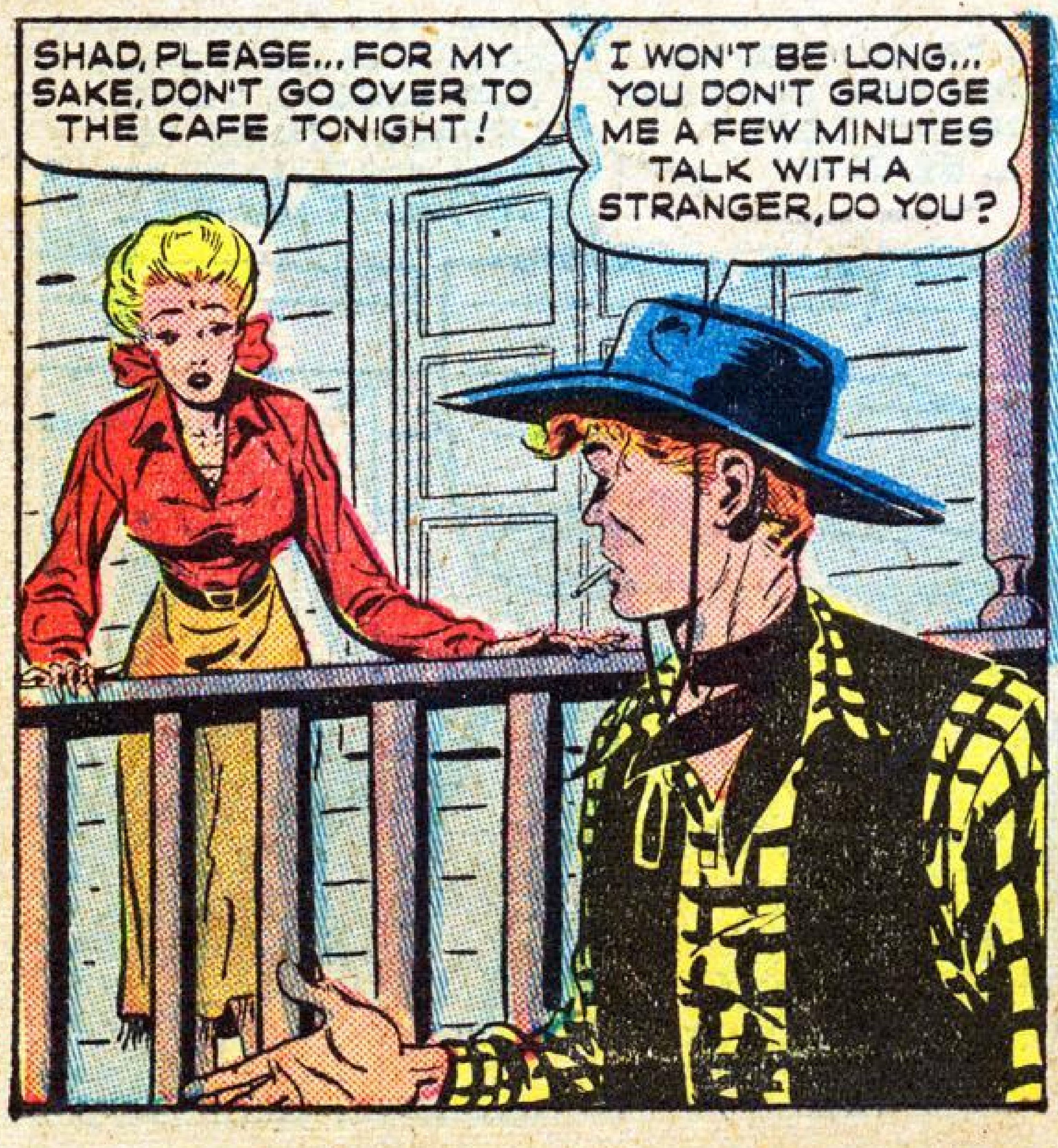

WHY, YOU DIRTY, SNIVELING COWARD!
(SOB!)... TIM... (SOB!) STOP IT! DON'T HURT HIM!

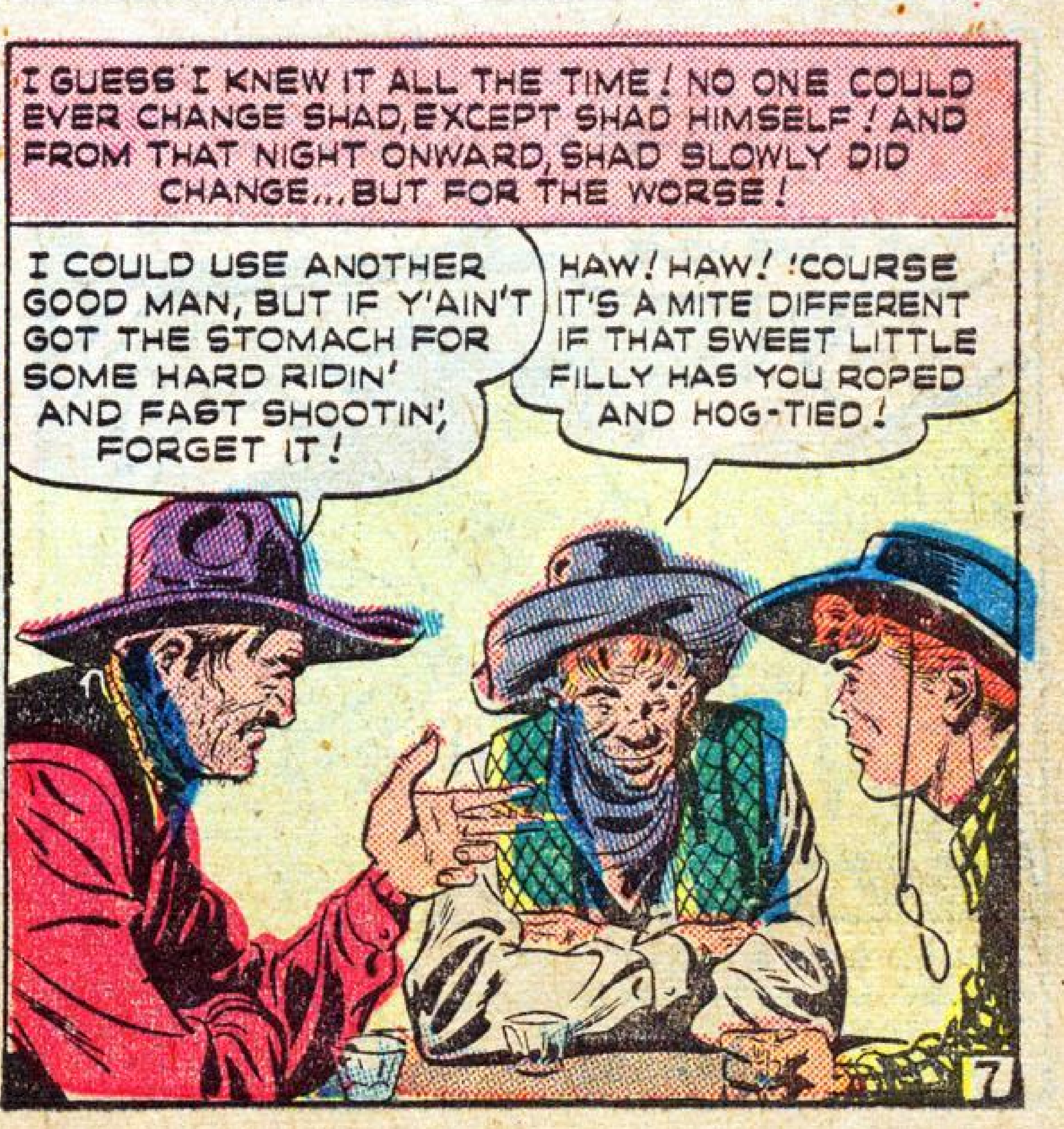

IF YOU WEREN'T MY BROTHER, I'D KILL YOU...!
DON'T LET THAT STOP YOU! ...DRAW!
AND WHEN ONE OF YOU HAS KILLED THE OTHER, KILL ME TOO!
ALL RIGHT, TRINA... WE WON'T DRAW... BUT JUST FOR YOU!

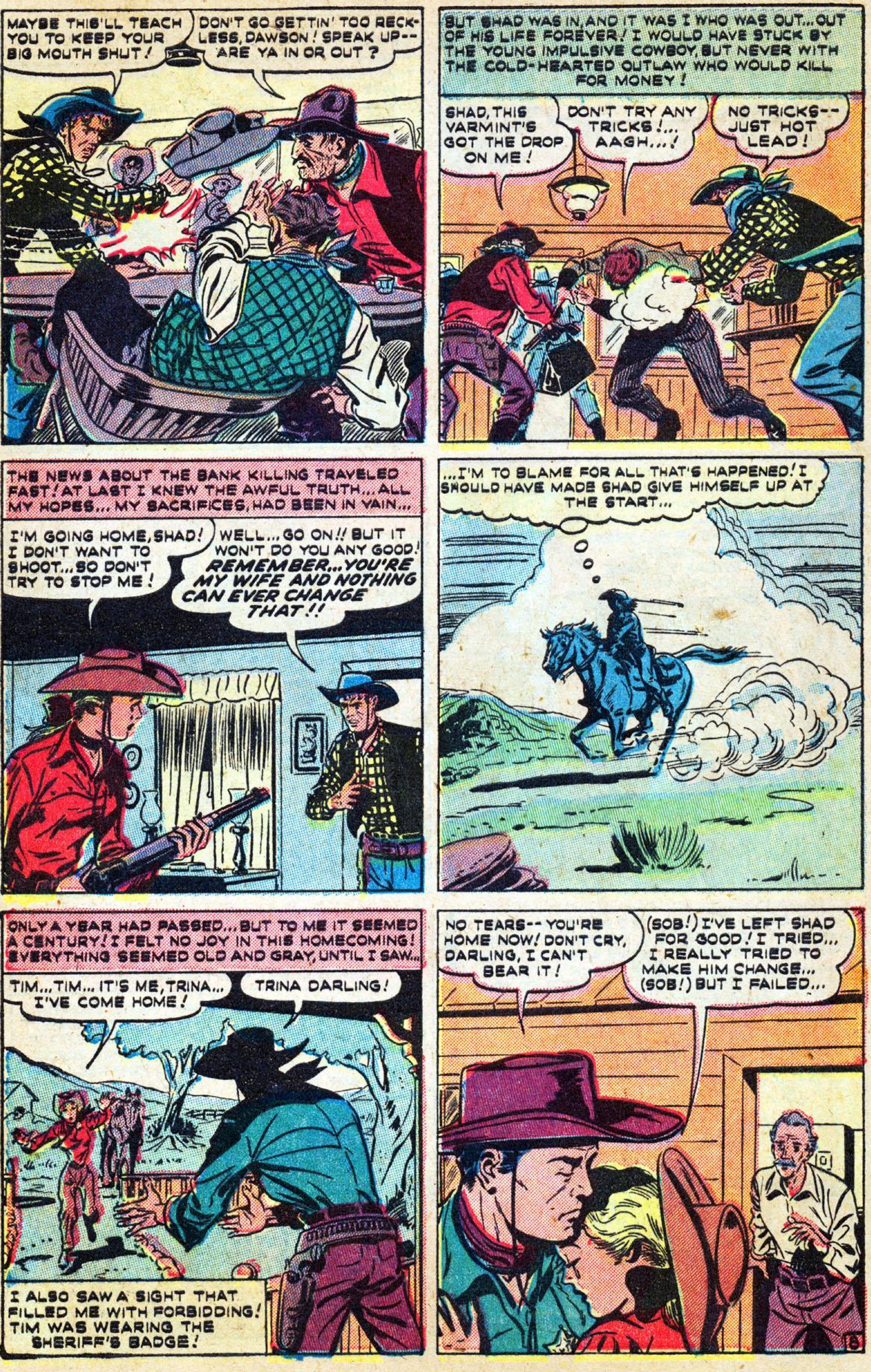

AND YET... DEEP DOWN INSIDE OF ME, I KNEW THAT TIM WAS RIGHT! BUT I HAD MADE MY CHOICE...
TIM... (SOB!)... TRY NOT TO HATE ME TOO MUCH!
I COULD NEVER HATE YOU--ALL I WANT IS YOUR HAPPINESS!

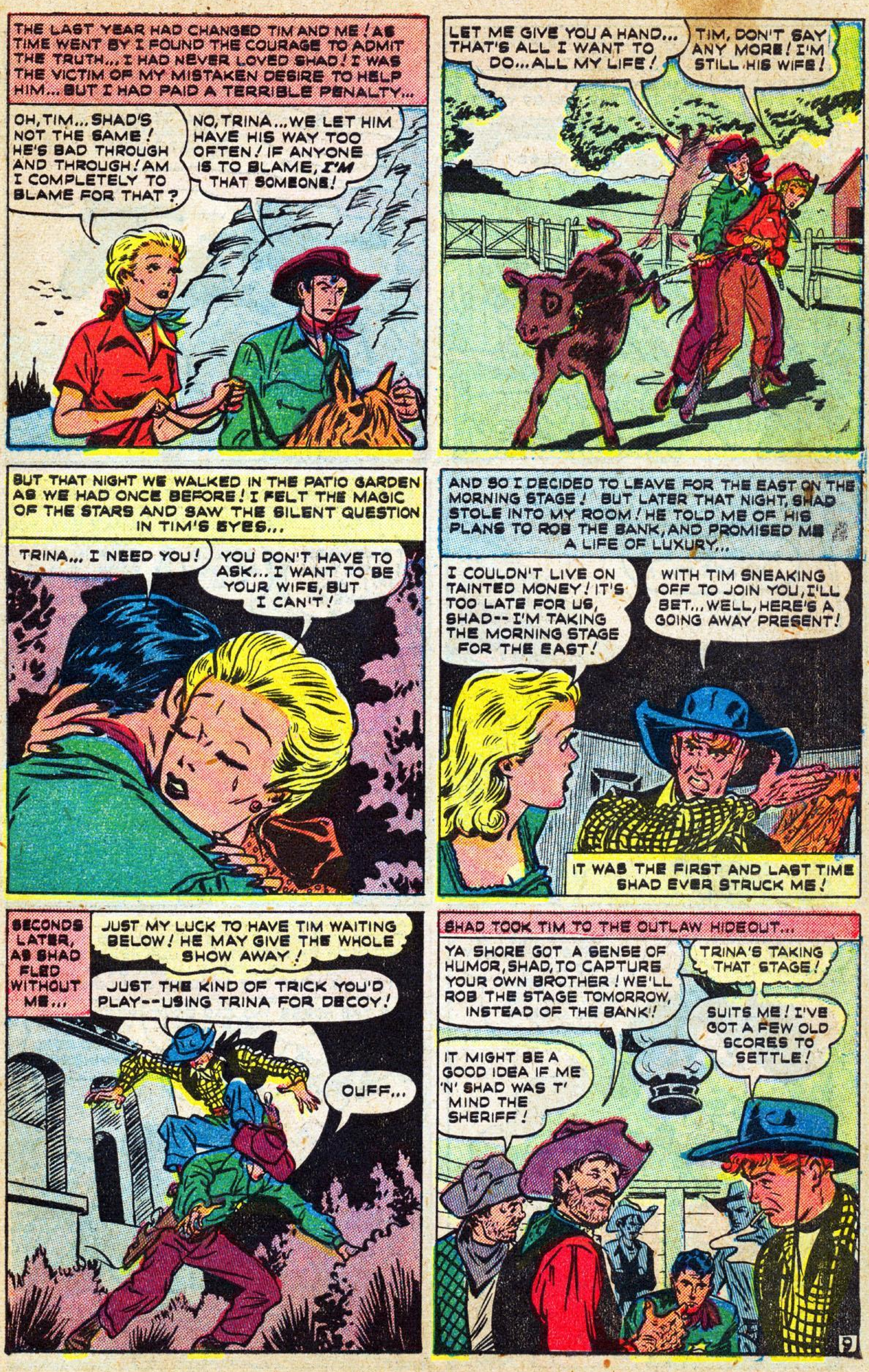

DON'T TAKE TOO LONG TO PACK, TRINA!... TOO BAD YOU CAN'T GIVE THE BRIDE AWAY, TIM!
SHAD... IF YOU BREAK HER HEART I SWEAR I'LL MAKE YOU PAY FOR IT!

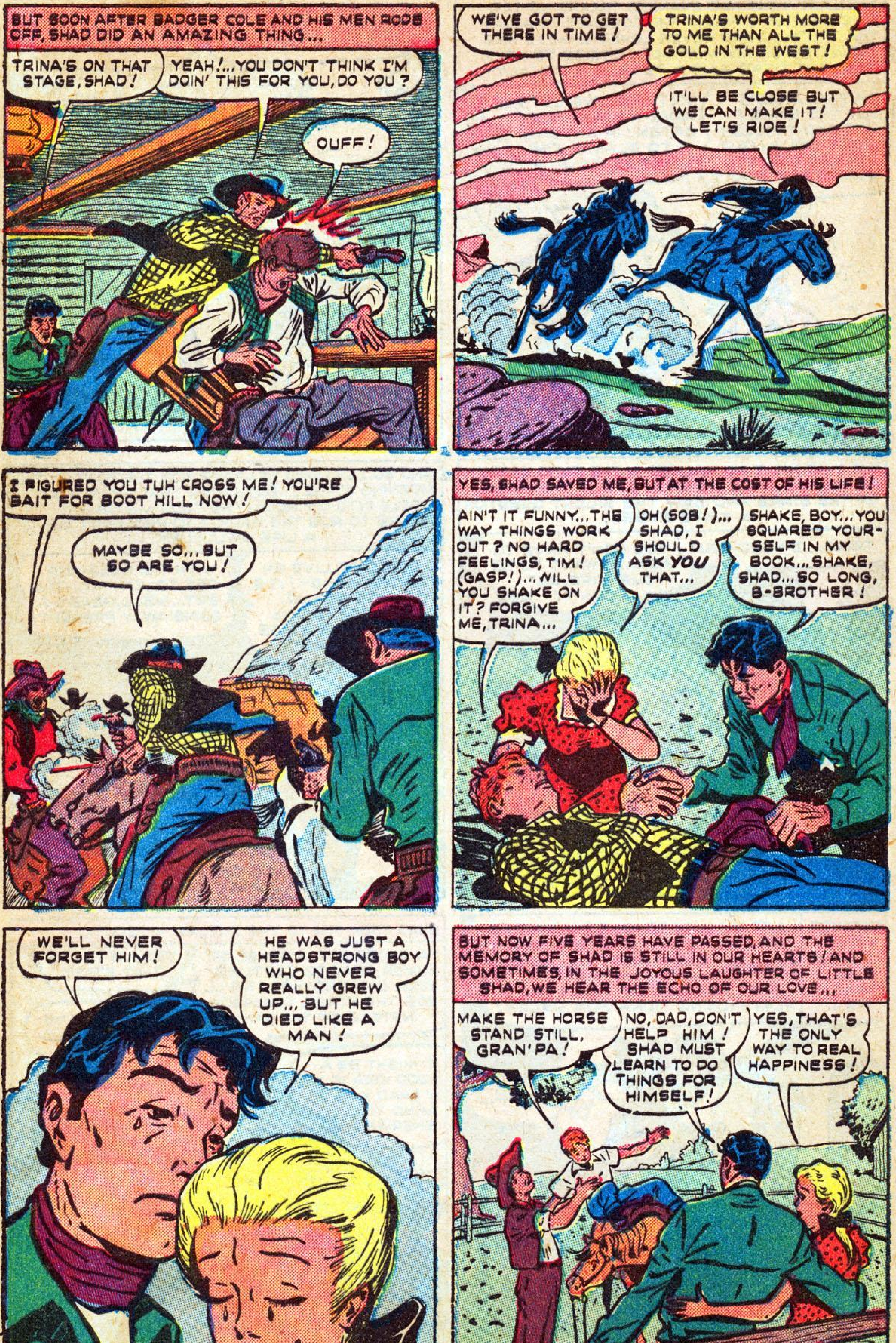

AT FIRST THE WEEKS SPED QUIETLY BY, WITH SHAD AND ME LIVING THE SIMPLE LIFE IN A SMALL MEXICAN VILLAGE NEAR THE BANKS OF THE RIO GRANDE! UNTIL ONE EVENING...
LET'S GO IN, SHAD!
RECKON WE MIGHT AS WELL... SAY, I WONDER WHO THOSE FELLOWS ARE?

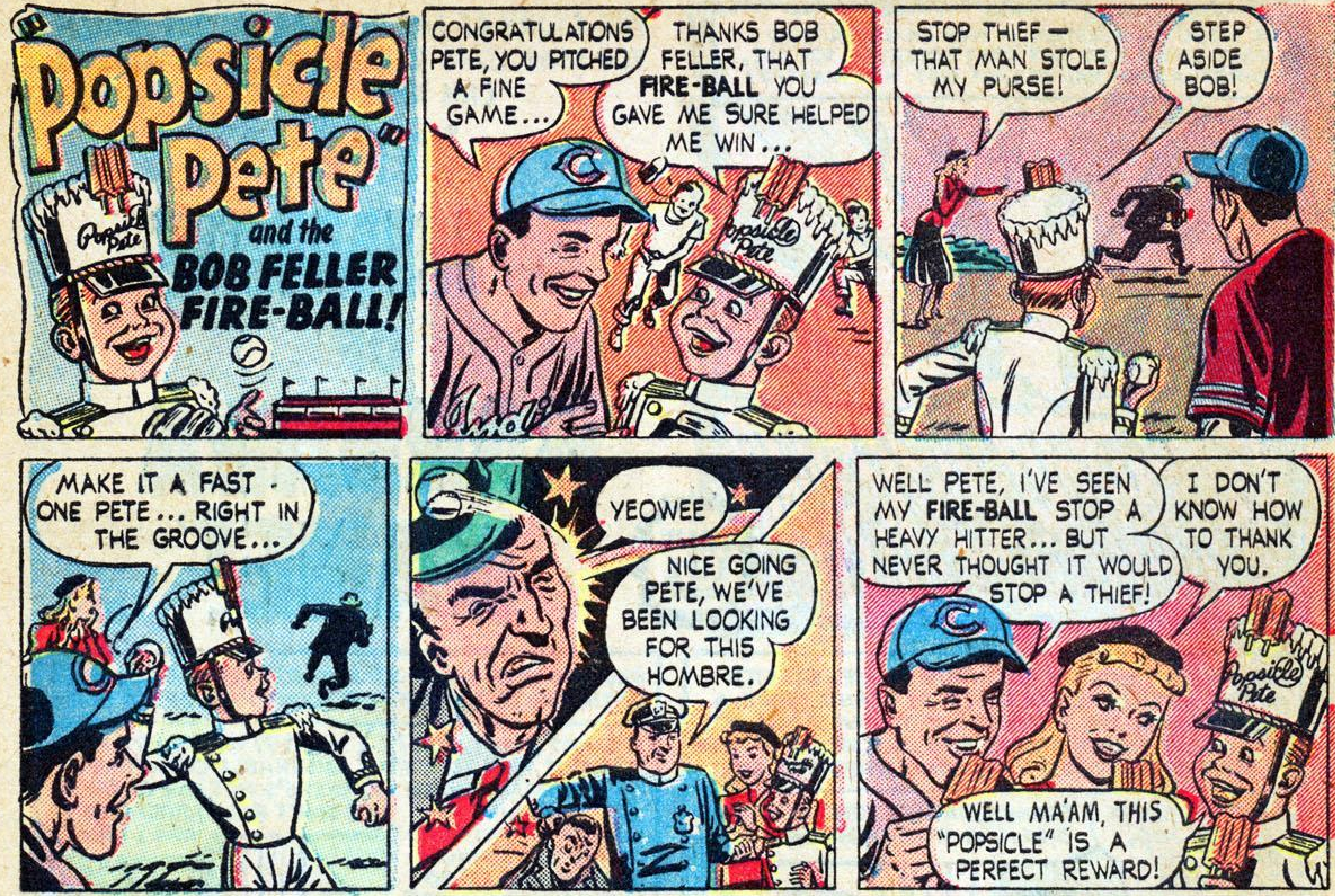

SHAD, PLEASE... FOR MY SAKE, DON'T GO OVER TO THE CAFE TONIGHT!
I WON'T BE LONG... YOU DON'T GRUDGE ME A FEW MINUTES TALK WITH A STRANGER, DO YOU?


I GUESS I KNEW IT ALL THE TIME! NO ONE COULD EVER CHANGE SHAD, EXCEPT SHAD HIMSELF! AND FROM THAT NIGHT ONWARD, SHAD SLOWLY DID CHANGE... BUT FOR THE WORSE!
I COULD USE ANOTHER GOOD MAN, BUT IF Y'AIN'T GOT THE STOMACH FOR SOME HARD RIDIN' AND FAST SHOOTIN', FORGET IT!
HAW! HAW! 'COURSE IT'S A MITE DIFFERENT IF THAT SWEET LITTLE FILLY HAS YOU ROPED AND HOG-TIED!


MAYBE THIS'LL TEACH YOU TO KEEP YOUR BIG MOUTH SHUT!
DON'T GO GETTIN' TOO RECKLESS, DAWSON! SPEAK UP-- ARE YA IN OR OUT?
BUT SHAD WAS IN, AND IT WAS I WHO WAS OUT... OUT OF HIS LIFE FOREVER! I WOULD HAVE STUCK BY THE YOUNG IMPULSIVE COWBOY, BUT NEVER WITH THE COLD-HEARTED OUTLAW WHO WOULD KILL FOR MONEY!
SHAD, THIS VARMINT'S GOT THE DROP ON ME!
DON'T TRY ANY TRICKS!... AAGH...!
NO TRICKS-- JUST HOT LEAD!
THE NEWS ABOUT THE BANK KILLING TRAVELED FAST! AT LAST I KNEW THE AWFUL TRUTH... ALL MY HOPES... MY SACRIFICES, HAD BEEN IN VAIN...
I'M GOING HOME, SHAD! I DON'T WANT TO SHOOT... SO DON'T TRY TO STOP ME!
WELL... GO ON!! BUT IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD! ***REMEMBER... YOU'RE MY WIFE AND NOTHING CAN EVER CHANGE THAT!!***
...I'M TO BLAME FOR ALL THAT'S HAPPENED! I SHOULD HAVE MADE SHAD GIVE HIMSELF UP AT THE START...
ONLY A YEAR HAD PASSED... BUT TO ME IT SEEMED A CENTURY! I FELT NO JOY IN THIS HOMECOMING! EVERYTHING SEEMED OLD AND GRAY, UNTIL I SAW...
TIM... TIM... IT'S ME, TRINA... I'VE COME HOME!
TRINA DARLING!
I ALSO SAW A SIGHT THAT FILLED ME WITH FORBIDDING! TIM WAS WEARING THE SHERIFF'S BADGE!
NO TEARS-- YOU'RE HOME NOW! DON'T CRY, DARLING, I CAN'T BEAR IT!
(SOB!) I'VE LEFT SHAD FOR GOOD! I TRIED... I REALLY TRIED TO MAKE HIM CHANGE... (SOB!) BUT I FAILED...


THE LAST YEAR HAD CHANGED TIM AND ME! AS TIME WENT BY I FOUND THE COURAGE TO ADMIT THE TRUTH... I HAD NEVER LOVED SHAD! I WAS THE VICTIM OF MY MISTAKEN DESIRE TO HELP HIM... BUT I HAD PAID A TERRIBLE PENALTY...
OH, TIM... SHAD'S NOT THE SAME! HE'S BAD THROUGH AND THROUGH! AM I COMPLETELY TO BLAME FOR THAT?
NO, TRINA... WE LET HIM HAVE HIS WAY TOO OFTEN! IF ANYONE IS TO BLAME, ***I'M*** THAT SOMEONE!
LET ME GIVE YOU A HAND... THAT'S ALL I WANT TO DO... ALL MY LIFE!
TIM, DON'T SAY ANY MORE! I'M STILL HIS WIFE!
BUT THAT NIGHT WE WALKED IN THE PATIO GARDEN AS WE HAD ONCE BEFORE! I FELT THE MAGIC OF THE STARS AND SAW THE SILENT QUESTION IN TIM'S EYES...
TRINA... I NEED YOU!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ASK... I WANT TO BE YOUR WIFE, BUT I CAN'T!
AND SO I DECIDED TO LEAVE FOR THE EAST ON THE MORNING STAGE! BUT LATER THAT NIGHT, SHAD STOLE INTO MY ROOM! HE TOLD ME OF HIS PLANS TO ROB THE BANK, AND PROMISED ME A LIFE OF LUXURY...
I COULDN'T LIVE ON TAINTED MONEY! IT'S TOO LATE FOR US, SHAD-- I'M TAKING THE MORNING STAGE FOR THE EAST!
WITH TIM SNEAKING OFF TO JOIN YOU, I'LL BET... WELL, HERE'S A GOING AWAY PRESENT!
IT WAS THE FIRST AND LAST TIME SHAD EVER STRUCK ME!
SECONDS LATER, AS SHAD FLED WITHOUT ME...
JUST MY LUCK TO HAVE TIM WAITING BELOW! HE MAY GIVE THE WHOLE SHOW AWAY!
JUST THE KIND OF TRICK YOU'D PLAY--USING TRINA FOR DECOY!
OUFF...
SHAD TOOK TIM TO THE OUTLAW HIDEOUT...
YA SHORE GOT A SENSE OF HUMOR, SHAD, TO CAPTURE YOUR OWN BROTHER! WE'LL ROB THE STAGE TOMORROW, INSTEAD OF THE BANK!
TRINA'S TAKING THAT STAGE!
SUITS ME! I'VE GOT A FEW OLD SCORES TO SETTLE!
IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA IF ME 'N' SHAD WAS T' MIND THE SHERIFF!


BUT SOON AFTER BADGER COLE AND HIS MEN RODE OFF, SHAD DID AN AMAZING THING...
TRINA'S ON THAT STAGE, SHAD!
YEAH!... YOU DON'T THINK I'M DOIN' THIS FOR YOU, DO YOU?
OUFF!
WE'VE GOT TO GET THERE IN TIME!
TRINA'S WORTH MORE TO ME THAN ALL THE GOLD IN THE WEST!
IT'LL BE CLOSE BUT WE CAN MAKE IT! LET'S RIDE!
I FIGURED YOU TUH CROSS ME! YOU'RE BAIT FOR BOOT HILL NOW!
MAYBE SO... BUT SO ARE YOU!
YES, SHAD SAVED ME, BUT AT THE COST OF HIS LIFE!
AIN'T IT FUNNY... THE WAY THINGS WORK OUT? NO HARD FEELINGS, TIM! (GASP!)... WILL YOU SHAKE ON IT? FORGIVE ME, TRINA...
OH (SOB!)... SHAD, I SHOULD ASK *YOU* THAT...
SHAKE, BOY... YOU SQUARED YOURSELF IN MY BOOK... SHAKE, SHAD... SO LONG, B-BROTHER!
WE'LL NEVER FORGET HIM!
HE WAS JUST A HEADSTRONG BOY WHO NEVER REALLY GREW UP... BUT HE DIED LIKE A MAN!
10
BUT NOW FIVE YEARS HAVE PASSED, AND THE MEMORY OF SHAD IS STILL IN OUR HEARTS! AND SOMETIMES, IN THE JOYOUS LAUGHTER OF LITTLE SHAD, WE HEAR THE ECHO OF OUR LOVE...
MAKE THE HORSE STAND STILL, GRAN'PA!
NO, DAD, DON'T HELP HIM! SHAD MUST LEARN TO DO THINGS FOR HIMSELF!
YES, THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO REAL HAPPINESS!
THE END


"Popsicle Pete"
and the
BOB FELLER
FIRE-BALL!
Popsicle Pete
CONGRATULATIONS PETE, YOU PITCHED A FINE GAME...
THANKS BOB FELLER, THAT FIRE-BALL YOU GAVE ME SURE HELPED ME WIN...
STOP THIEF— THAT MAN STOLE MY PURSE!
STEP ASIDE BOB!
MAKE IT A FAST ONE PETE... RIGHT IN THE GROOVE...
YEOWEE
NICE GOING PETE, WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THIS HOMBRE.
WELL PETE, I'VE SEEN MY FIRE-BALL STOP A HEAVY HITTER... BUT NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD STOP A THIEF!
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU.
WELL MA'AM, THIS "POPSICLE" IS A PERFECT REWARD!

GET SWELL GIFTS

SAVE THE BAGS with RED DOTS

And All Bags That Read "Save these bags for Gifts" and "Licensed By JOE LOWE CORP"

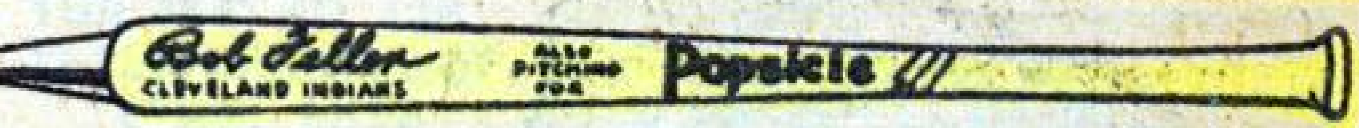
Twin
Popsicle*
Fudgsicle*
Creamsicle*
Ice Cream
ON-A-STICK

Wilson
MADE IN U.S.A.
BOB
FireBall
FELLER

BOB FELLER BASEBALL

Sturdy horsehide cover. Autographed by Bob Feller, famous Ace Pitcher.

15 BAGS AND 60¢


Bob Feller
CLEVELAND INDIANS
ALSO PITCHING FOR
Popsicle

BOB FELLER AUTOGRAPHED MECHANICAL BASEBALL BAT PENCIL

Accurate scale-model of big league bat. Refillable Lead.

5 BAGS AND 10¢

GET THIS BALL OR PENCIL FROM "POPSICLE PETE"

P.O. Box 1299
NEW YORK 8, N. Y.

400 W. Ohio St.
CHICAGO 10, ILL.

2744 E. 11th St.
LOS ANGELES 23, CAL.

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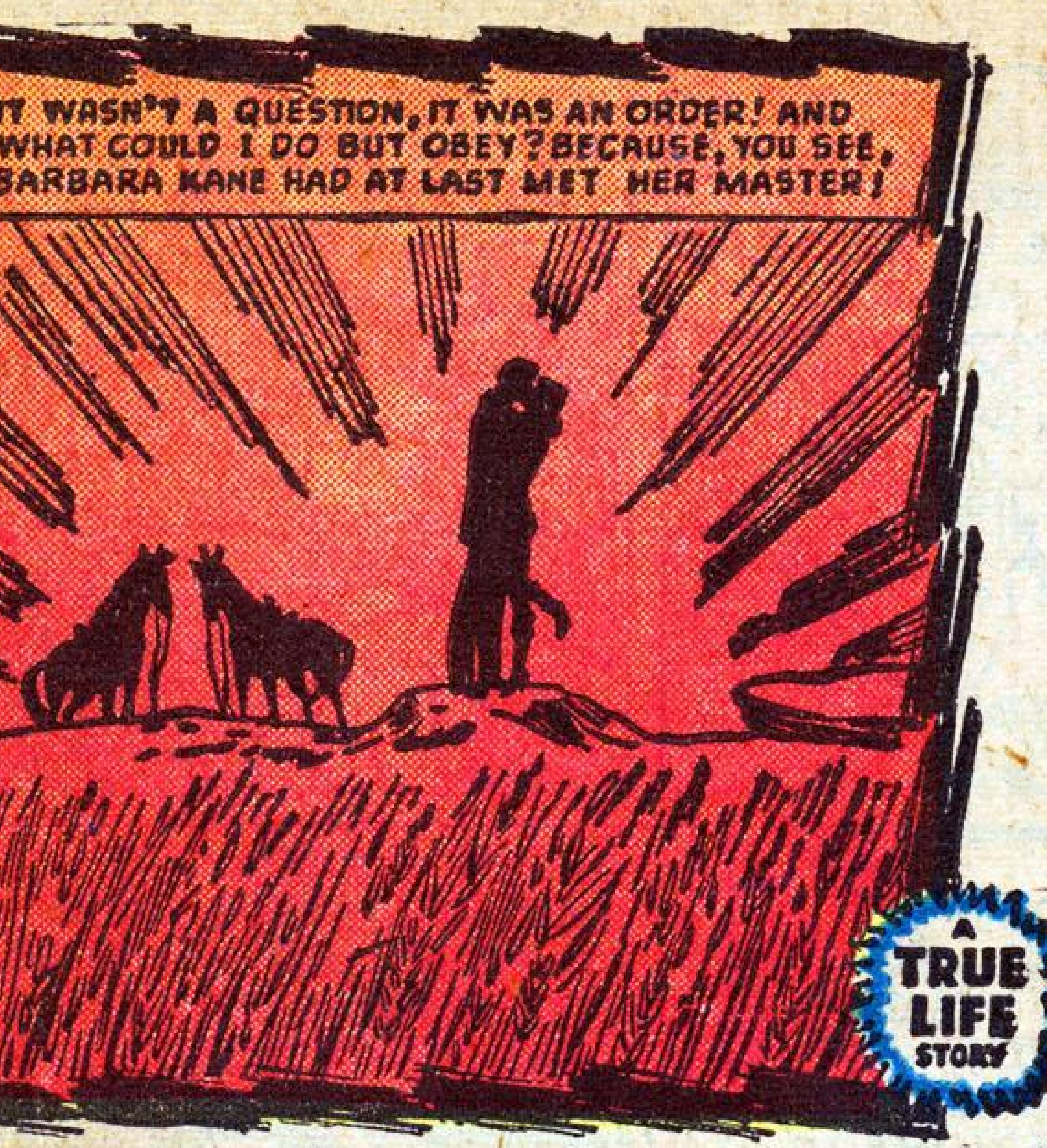
ATLANTA, GA.

GET GIFT LIST FREE

AT YOUR ICE CREAM STORE or write for FREE LIST, showing many other swell prizes, to POPSICLE PETE* at Address nearest you.

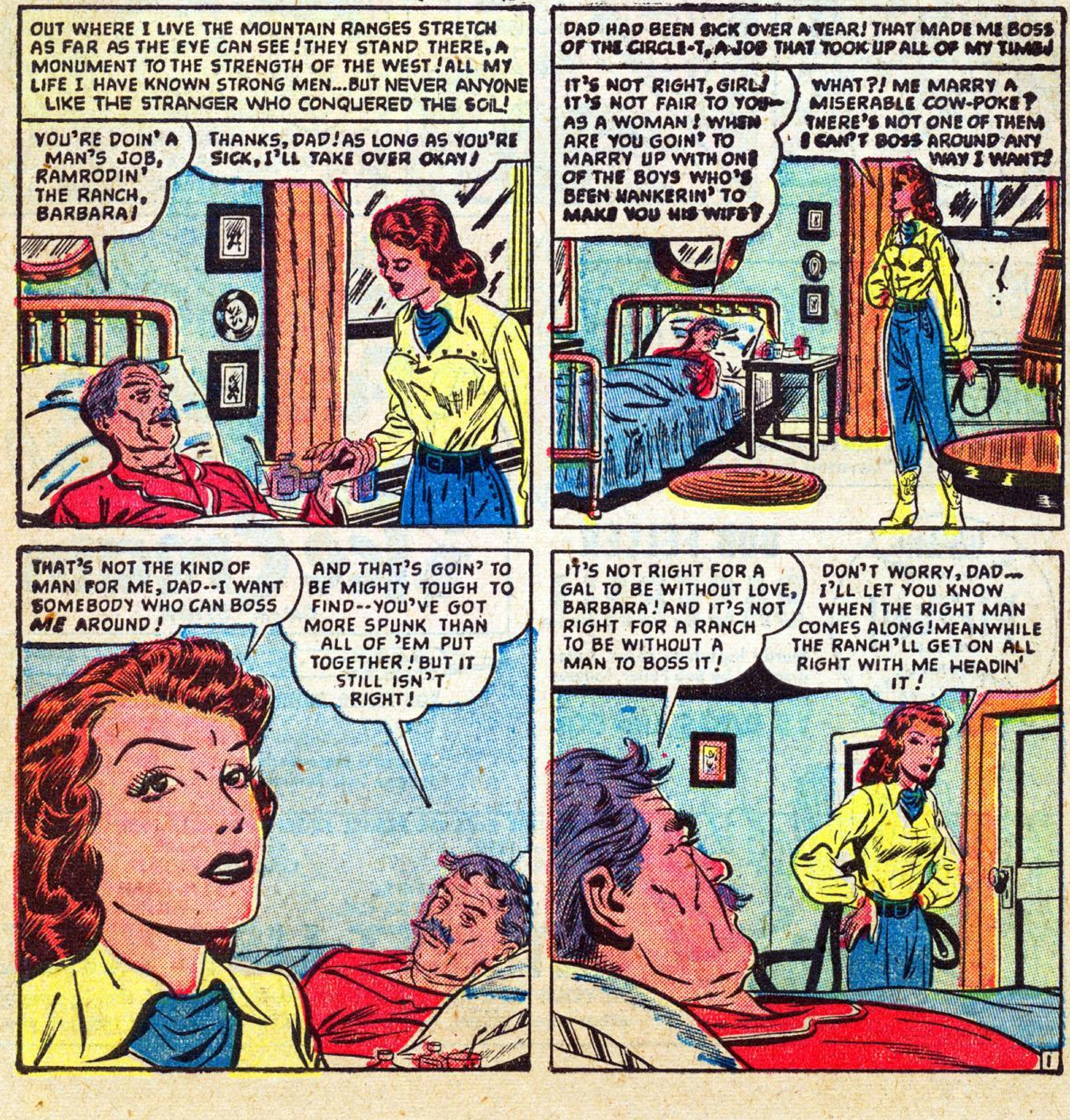
*T.M. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

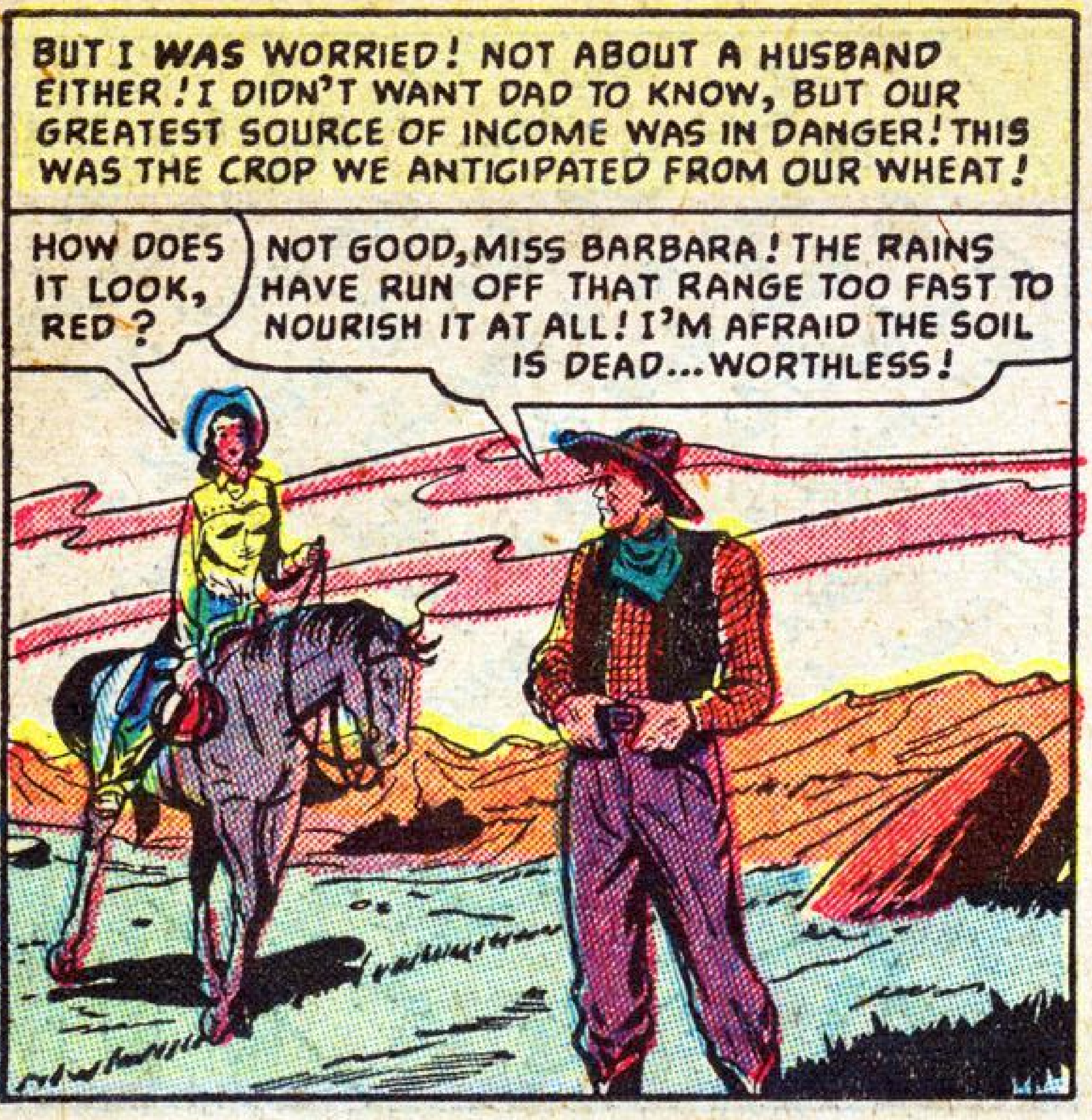

IT WASN'T A QUESTION, IT WAS AN ORDER! AND WHAT COULD I DO BUT OBEY? BECAUSE, YOU SEE, BARBARA KANE HAD AT LAST MET HER MASTER!
A TRUE LIFE STORY

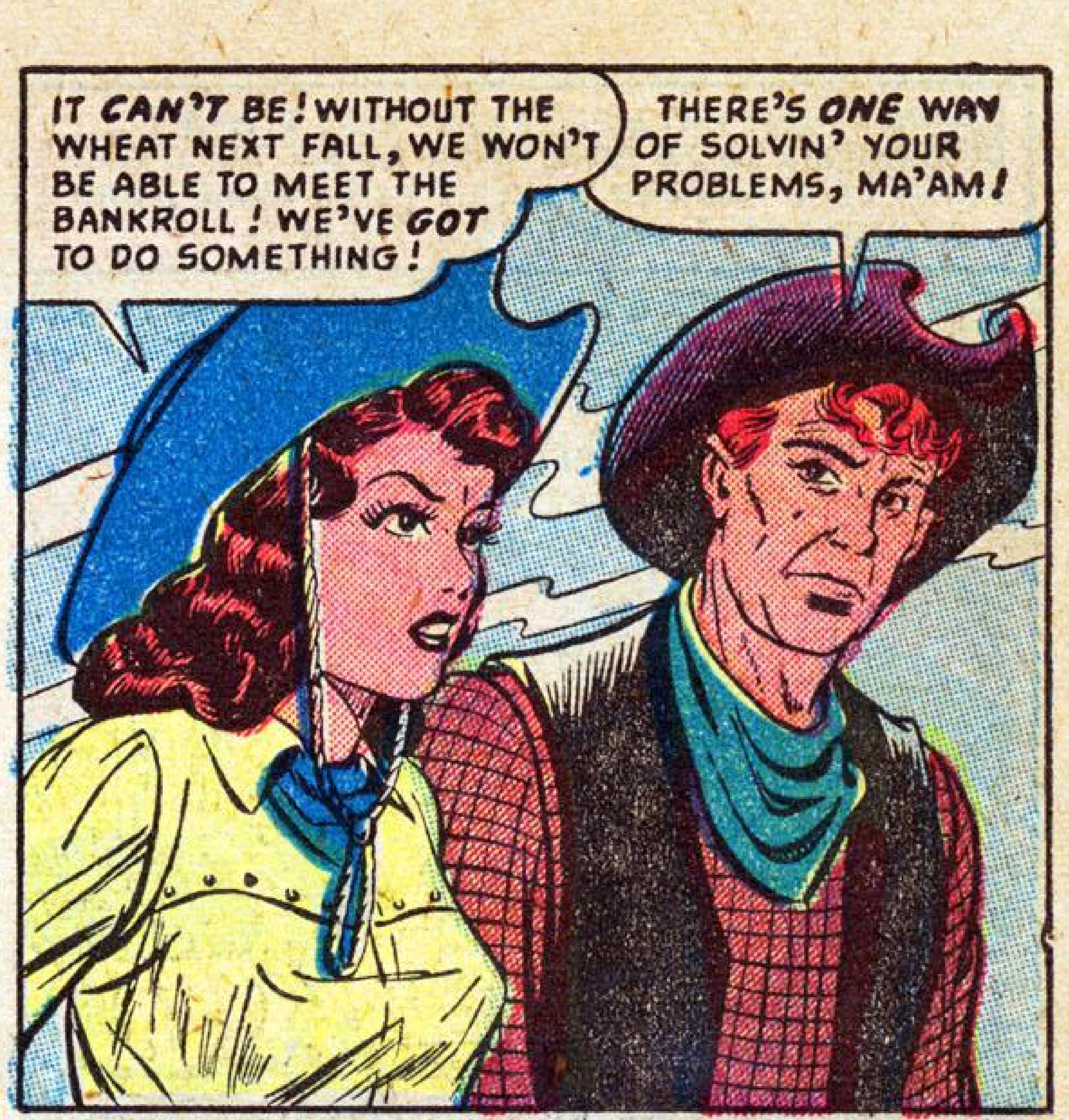
THE STORY OF MY ROMANCE IS ONE WHICH YOU MAY LONG REMEMBER...ONE WHICH I CAN NEVER FORGET!

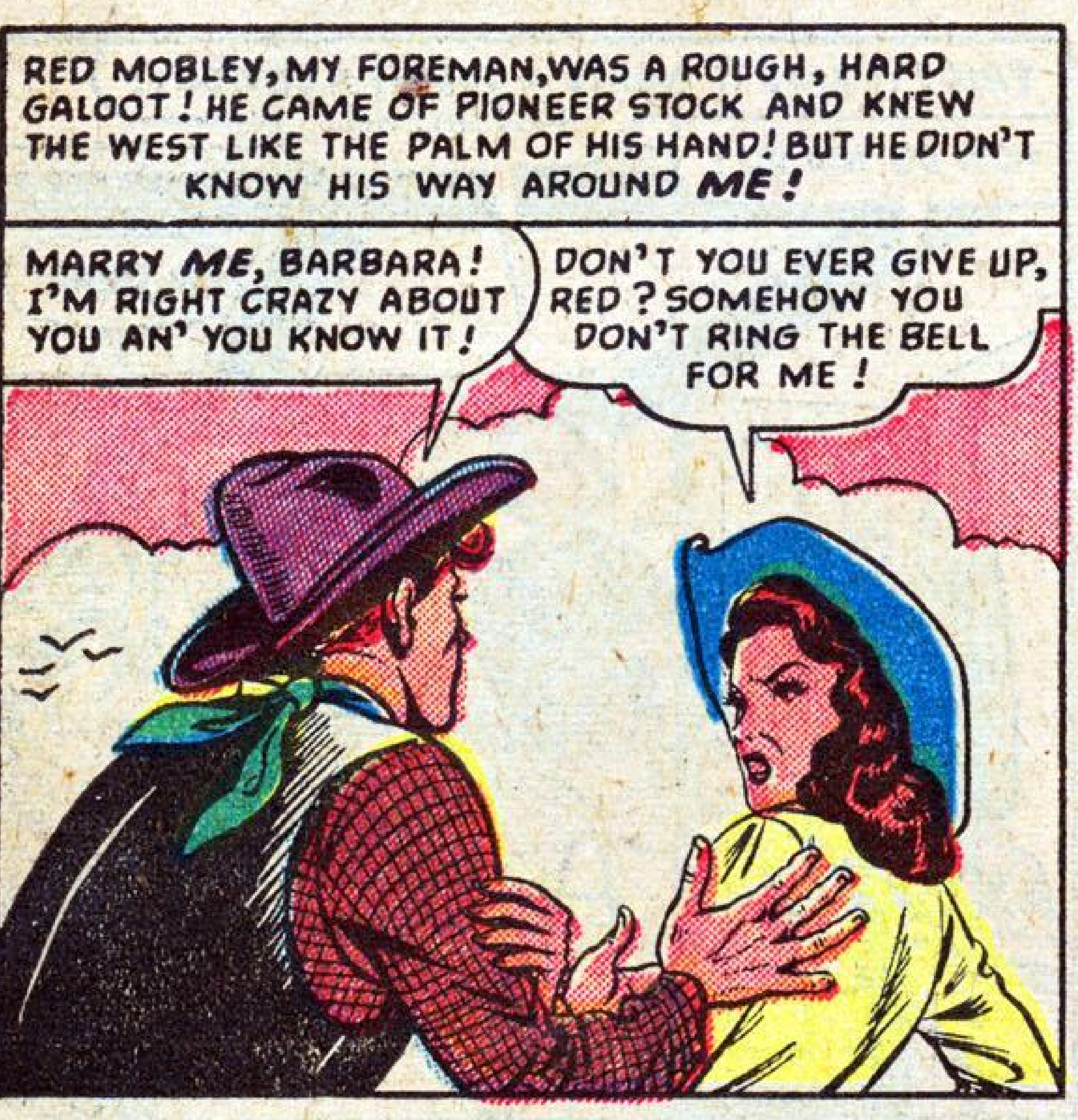
"THE WINNING OF BARBARA KANE!"

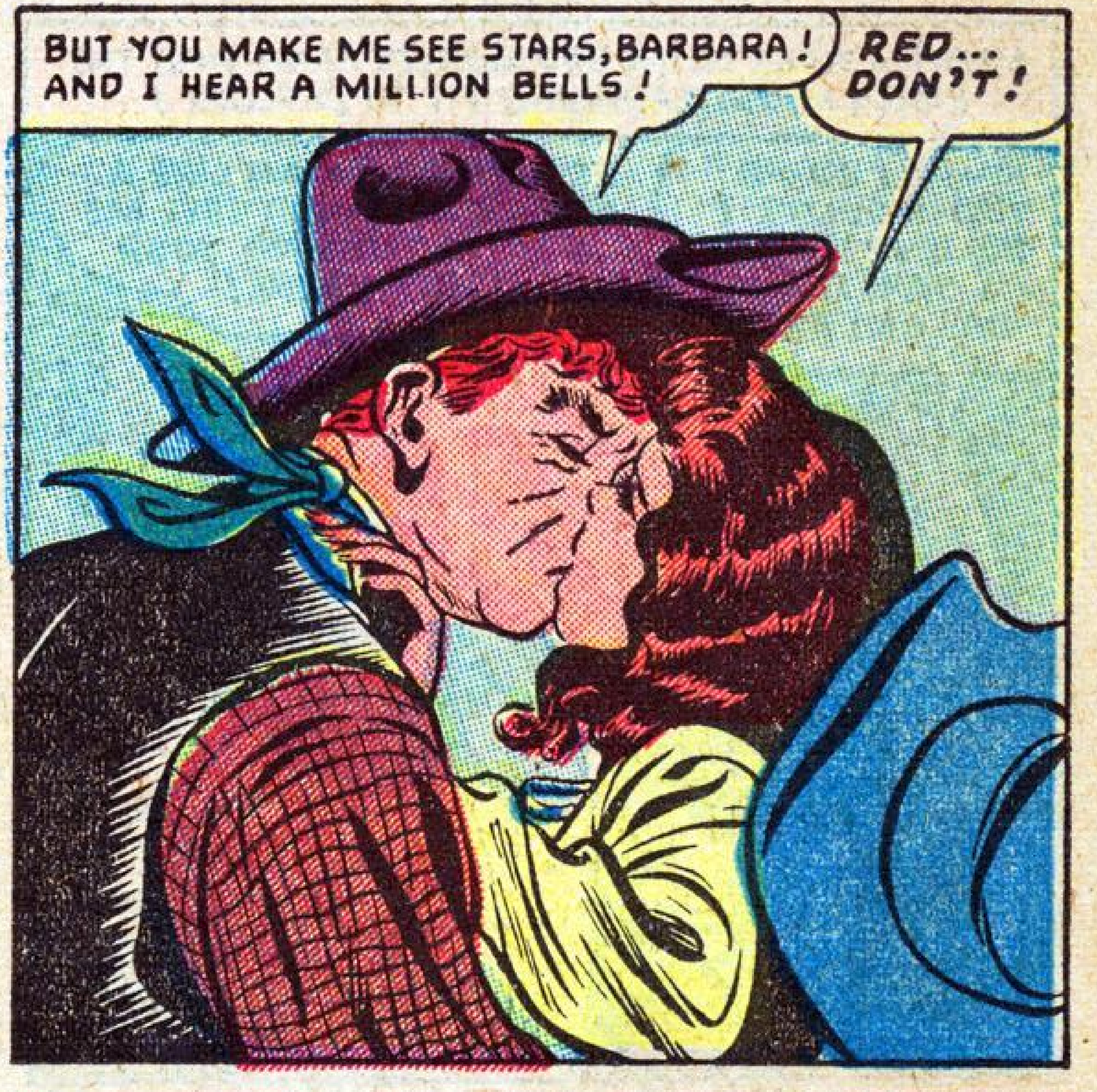
6135

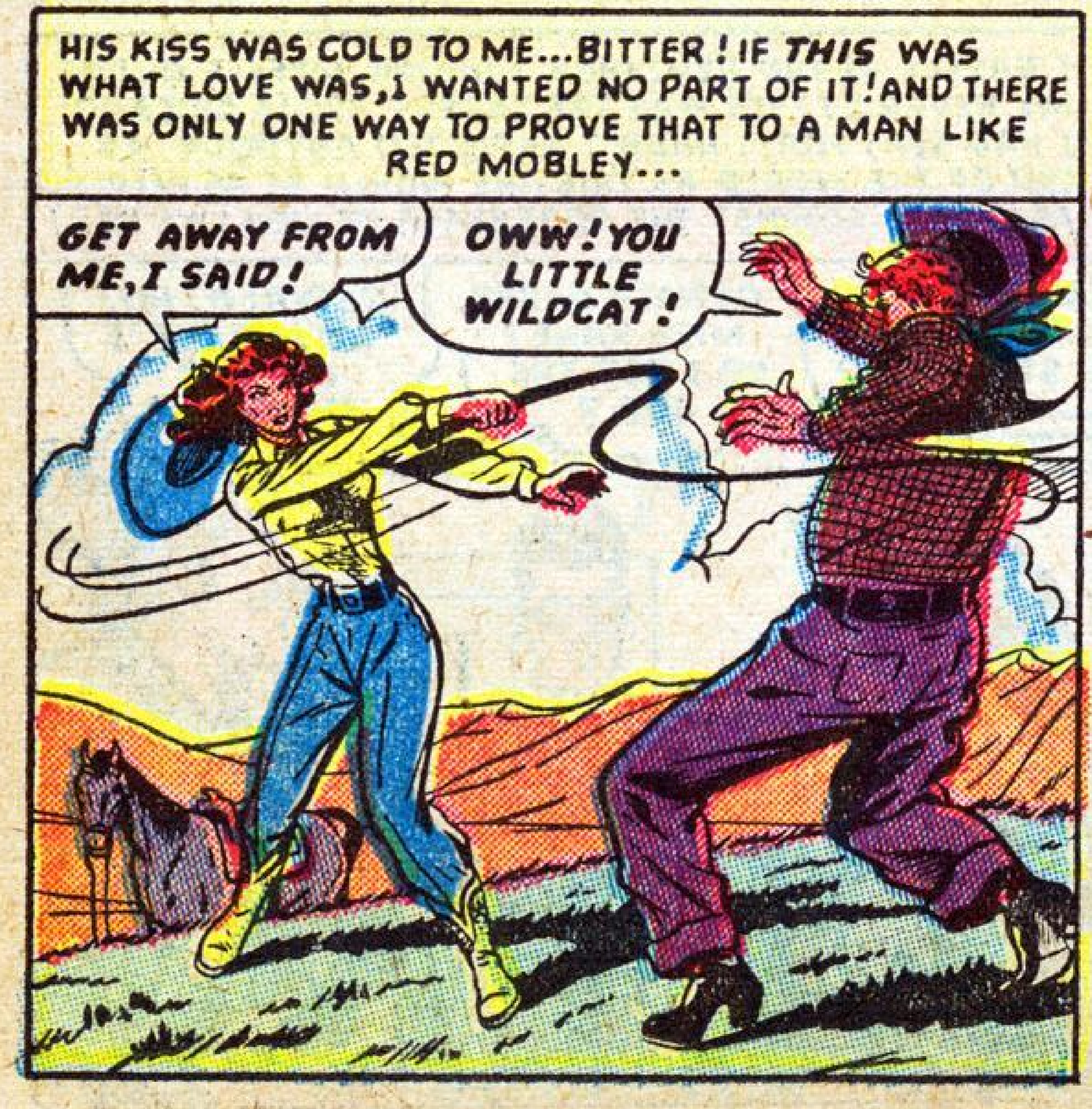

OUT WHERE I LIVE THE MOUNTAIN RANGES STRETCH AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE! THEY STAND THERE, A MONUMENT TO THE STRENGTH OF THE WEST! ALL MY LIFE I HAVE KNOWN STRONG MEN...BUT NEVER ANYONE LIKE THE STRANGER WHO CONQUERED THE SOIL!
YOU'RE DOIN' A MAN'S JOB, RAMRODIN' THE RANCH, BARBARA!
THANKS, DAD! AS LONG AS YOU'RE SICK, I'LL TAKE OVER OKAY!
DAD HAD BEEN SICK OVER A YEAR! THAT MADE ME BOSS OF THE CIRCLE-T, A JOB THAT TOOK UP ALL OF MY TIME!
IT'S NOT RIGHT, GIRL! IT'S NOT FAIR TO YOU-- AS A WOMAN! WHEN ARE YOU GOIN' TO MARRY UP WITH ONE OF THE BOYS WHO'S BEEN HANKERIN' TO MAKE YOU HIS WIFE?
WHAT?! ME MARRY A MISERABLE COW-POKE? THERE'S NOT ONE OF THEM I CAN'T BOSS AROUND ANY WAY I WANT!
THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF MAN FOR ME, DAD--I WANT SOMEBODY WHO CAN BOSS ME AROUND!
AND THAT'S GOIN' TO BE MIGHTY TOUGH TO FIND--YOU'VE GOT MORE SPUNK THAN ALL OF 'EM PUT TOGETHER! BUT IT STILL ISN'T RIGHT!
IT'S NOT RIGHT FOR A GAL TO BE WITHOUT LOVE, BARBARA! AND IT'S NOT RIGHT FOR A RANCH TO BE WITHOUT A MAN TO BOSS IT!
DON'T WORRY, DAD-- I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN THE RIGHT MAN COMES ALONG! MEANWHILE THE RANCH'LL GET ON ALL RIGHT WITH ME HEADIN' IT!
1

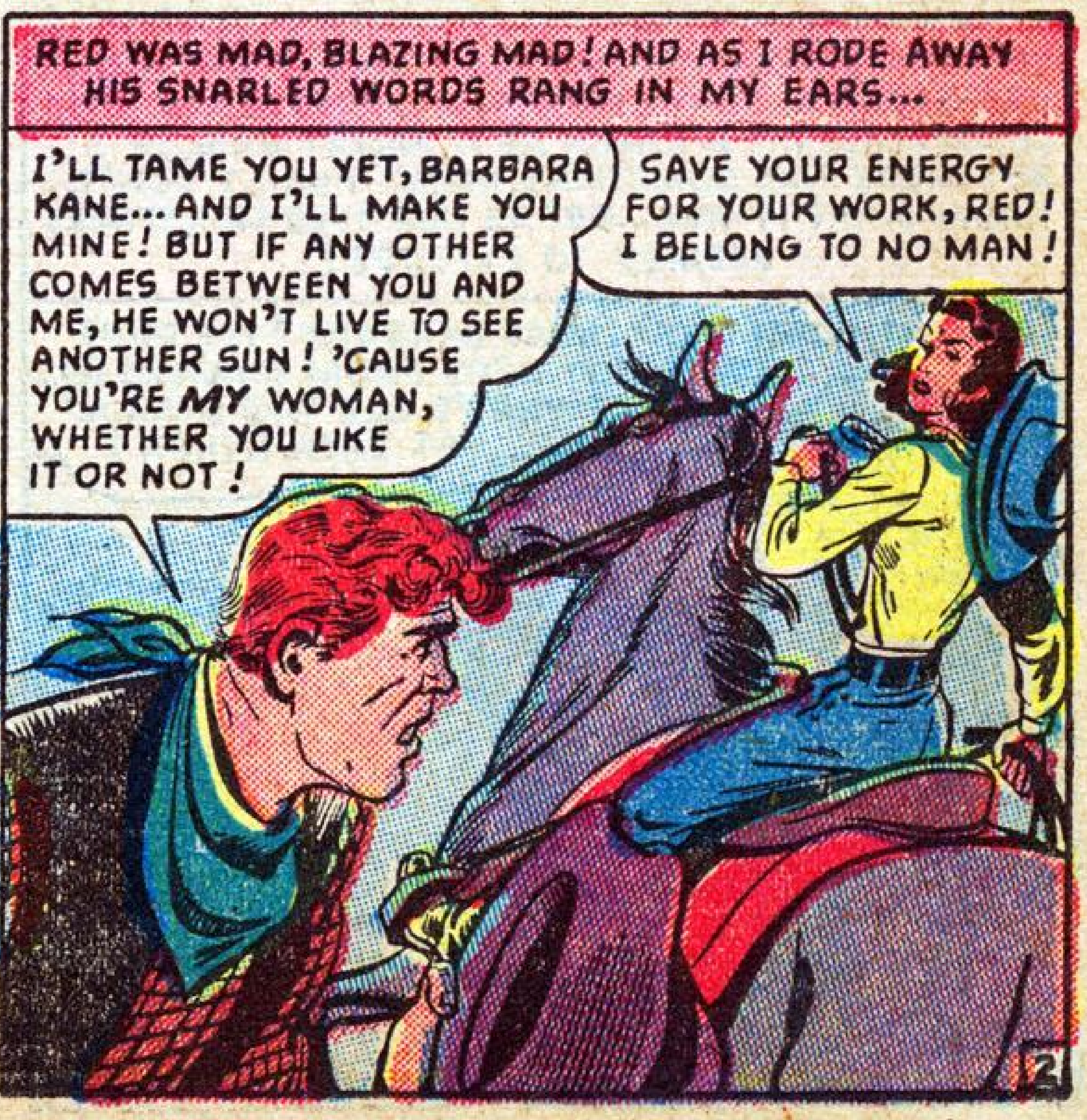

BUT I WAS WORRIED! NOT ABOUT A HUSBAND EITHER! I DIDN'T WANT DAD TO KNOW, BUT OUR GREATEST SOURCE OF INCOME WAS IN DANGER! THIS WAS THE CROP WE ANTICIPATED FROM OUR WHEAT!
HOW DOES IT LOOK, RED?
NOT GOOD, MISS BARBARA! THE RAINS HAVE RUN OFF THAT RANGE TOO FAST TO NOURISH IT AT ALL! I'M AFRAID THE SOIL IS DEAD... WORTHLESS!

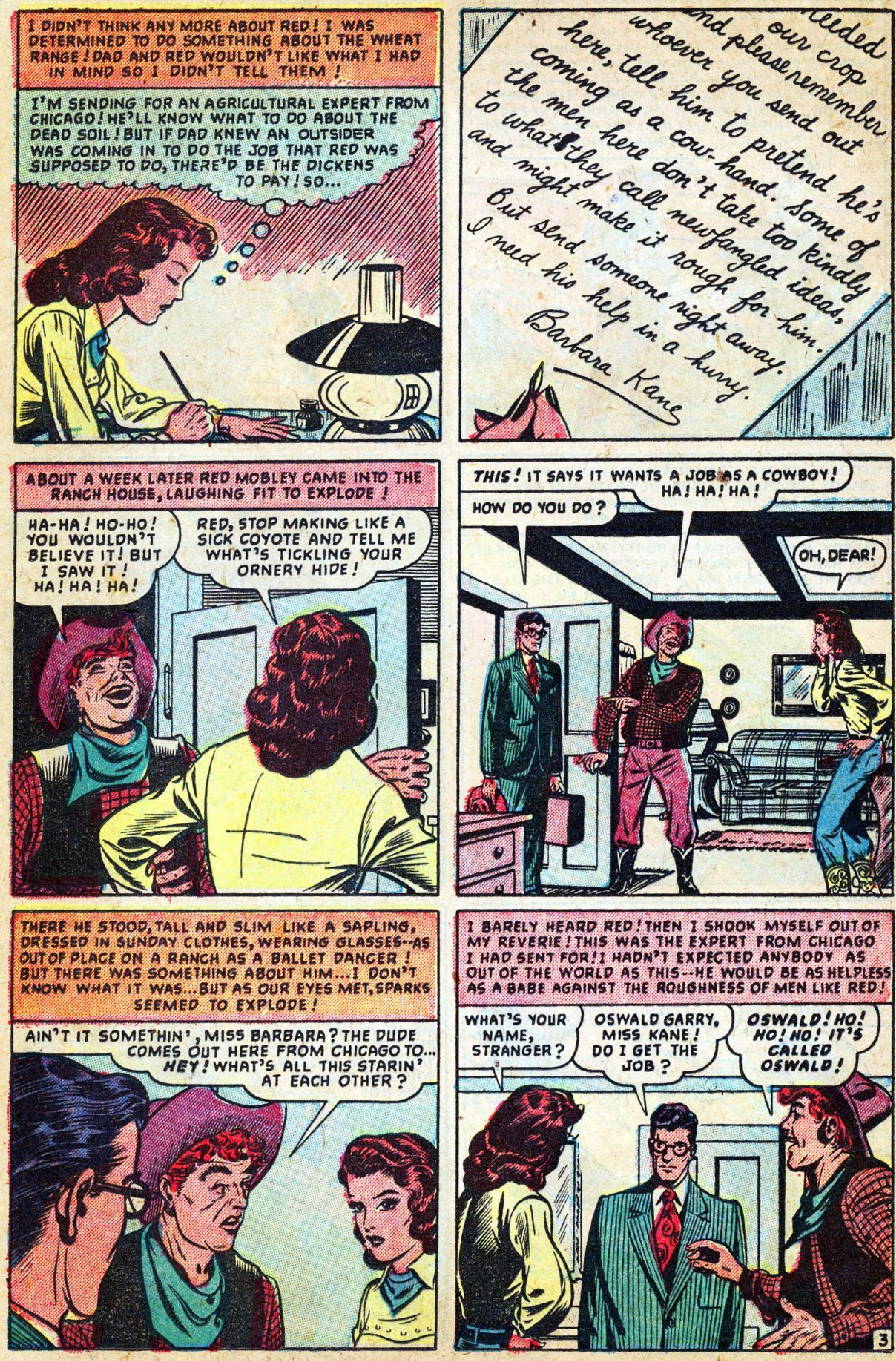

IT CAN'T BE! WITHOUT THE WHEAT NEXT FALL, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MEET THE BANKROLL! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
THERE'S ONE WAY OF SOLVIN' YOUR PROBLEMS, MA'AM!

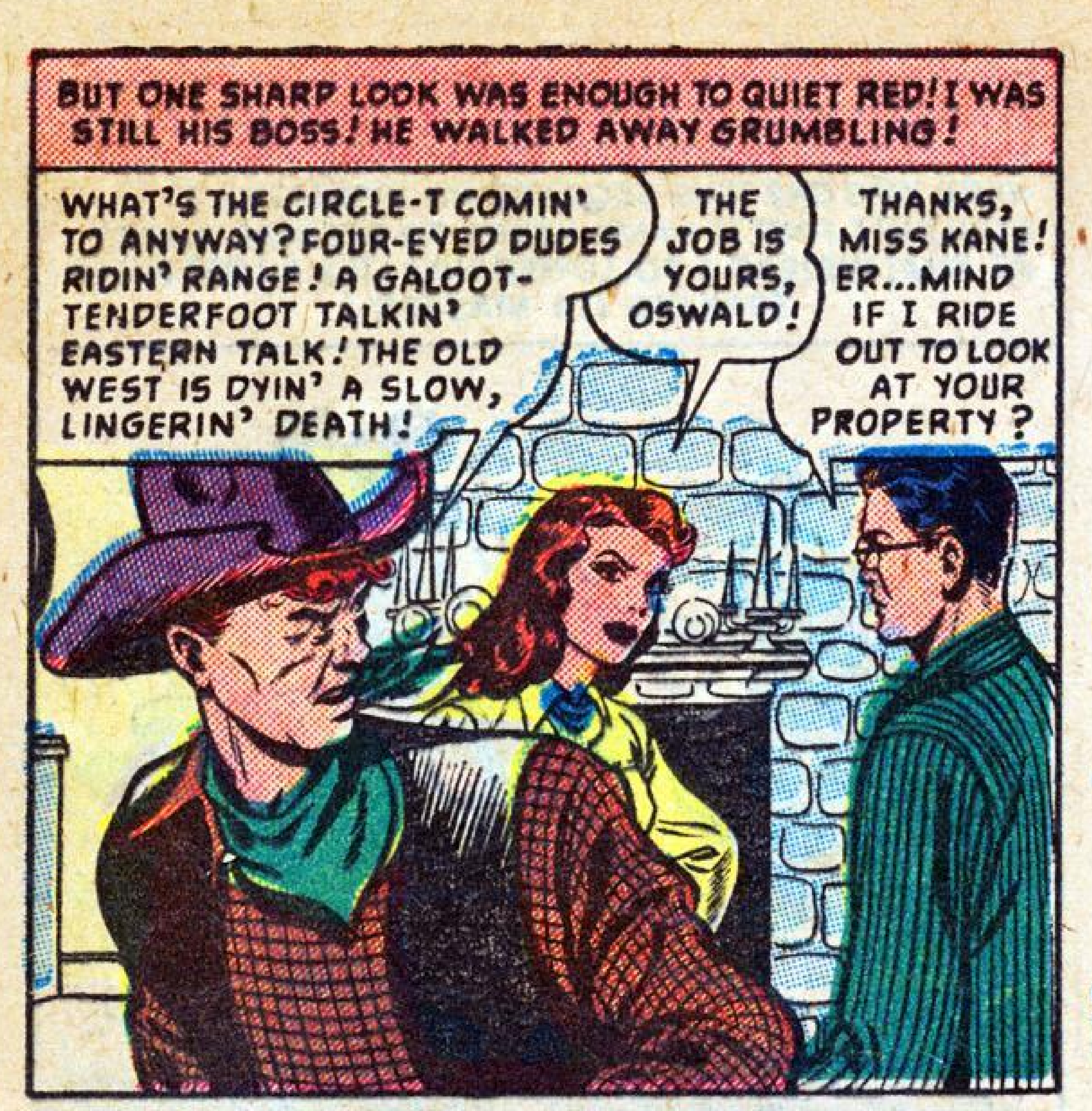

RED MOBLEY, MY FOREMAN, WAS A ROUGH, HARD GALOOT! HE CAME OF PIONEER STOCK AND KNEW THE WEST LIKE THE PALM OF HIS HAND! BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW HIS WAY AROUND ME!
MARRY ME, BARBARA! I'M RIGHT CRAZY ABOUT YOU AN' YOU KNOW IT!
DON'T YOU EVER GIVE UP, RED? SOMEHOW YOU DON'T RING THE BELL FOR ME!

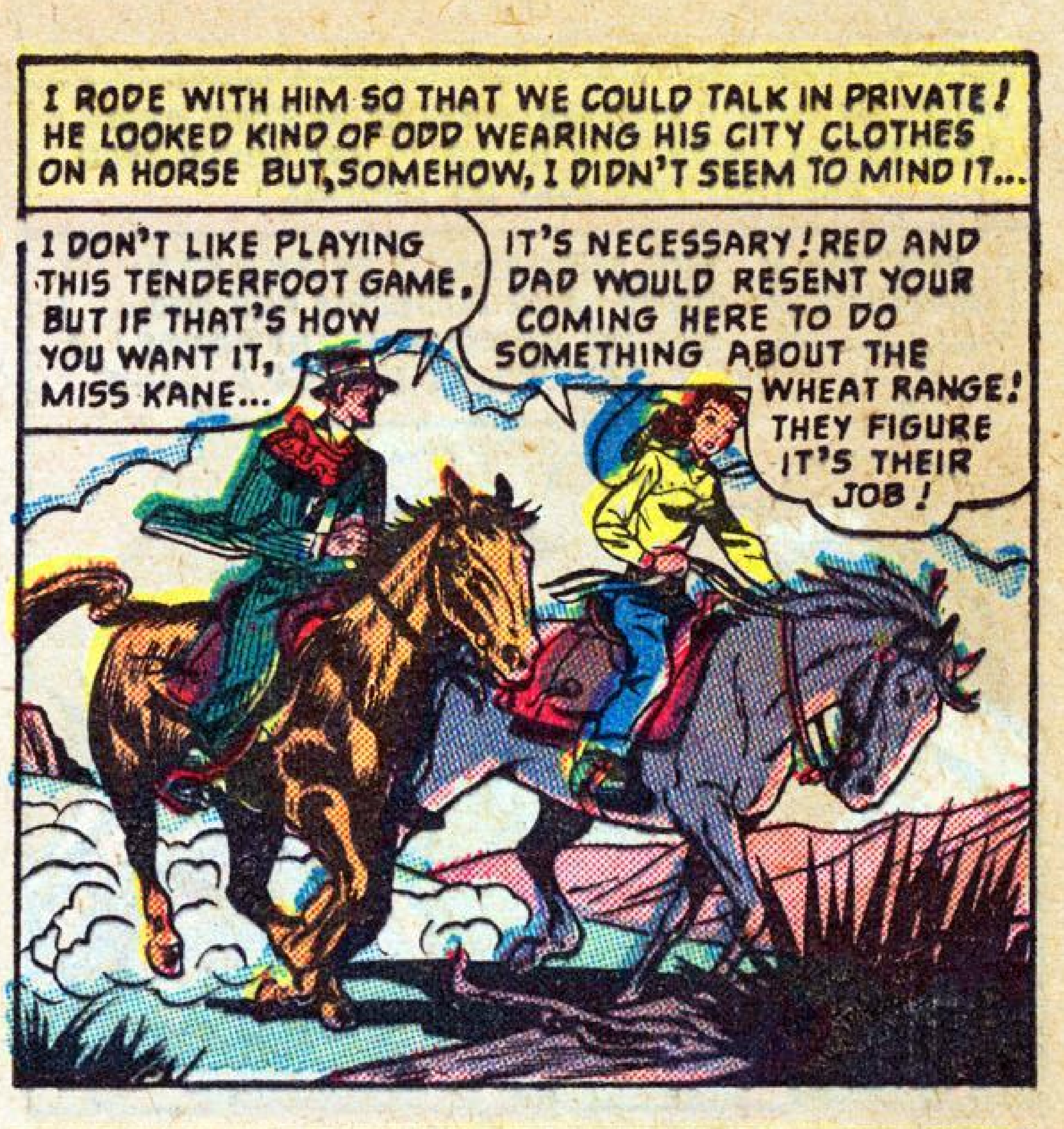

BUT YOU MAKE ME SEE STARS, BARBARA! AND I HEAR A MILLION BELLS!
RED... DON'T!

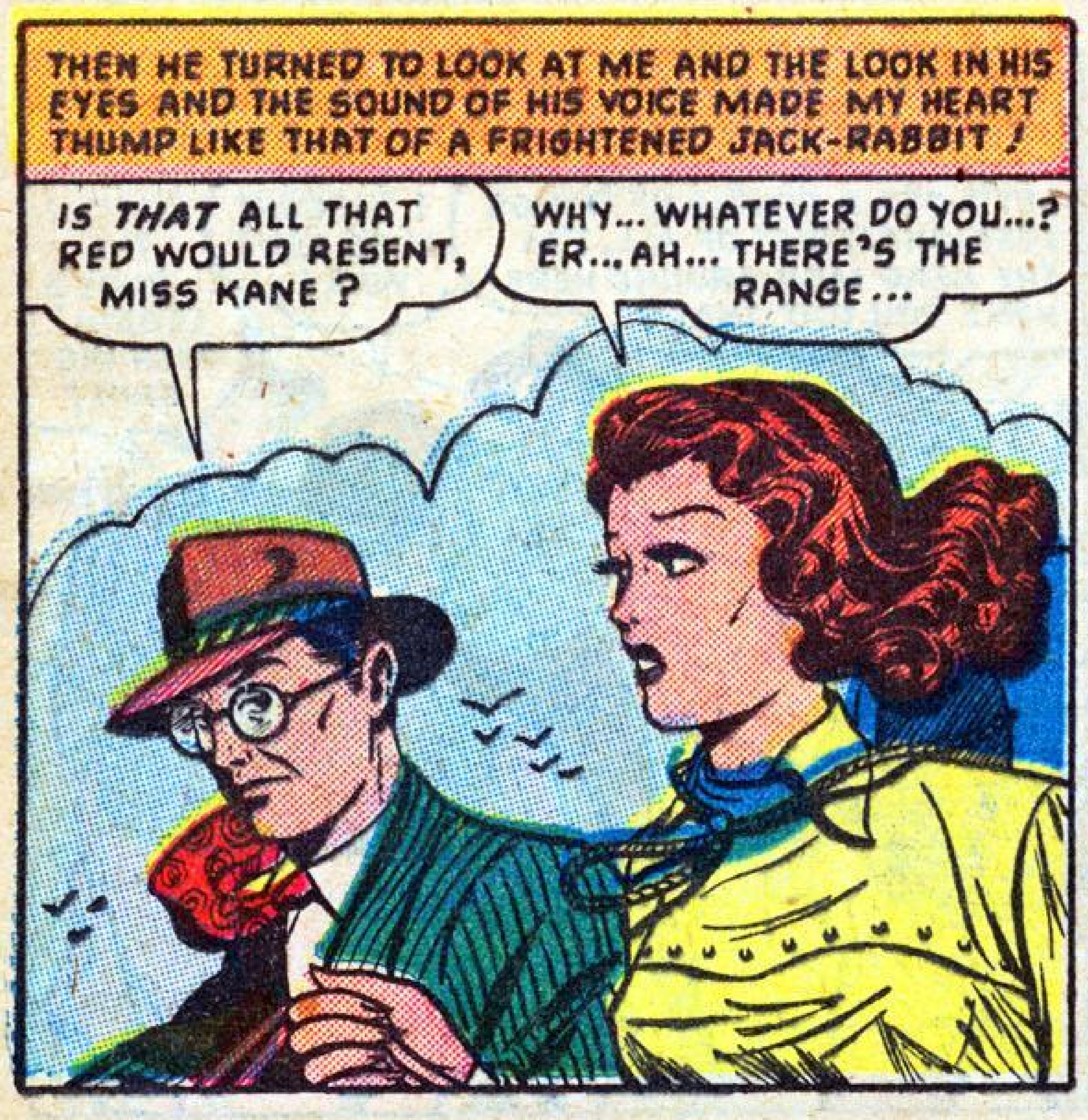

HIS KISS WAS COLD TO ME... BITTER! IF THIS WAS WHAT LOVE WAS, I WANTED NO PART OF IT! AND THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO PROVE THAT TO A MAN LIKE RED MOBLEY...
GET AWAY FROM ME, I SAID!
OWW! YOU LITTLE WILDCAT!

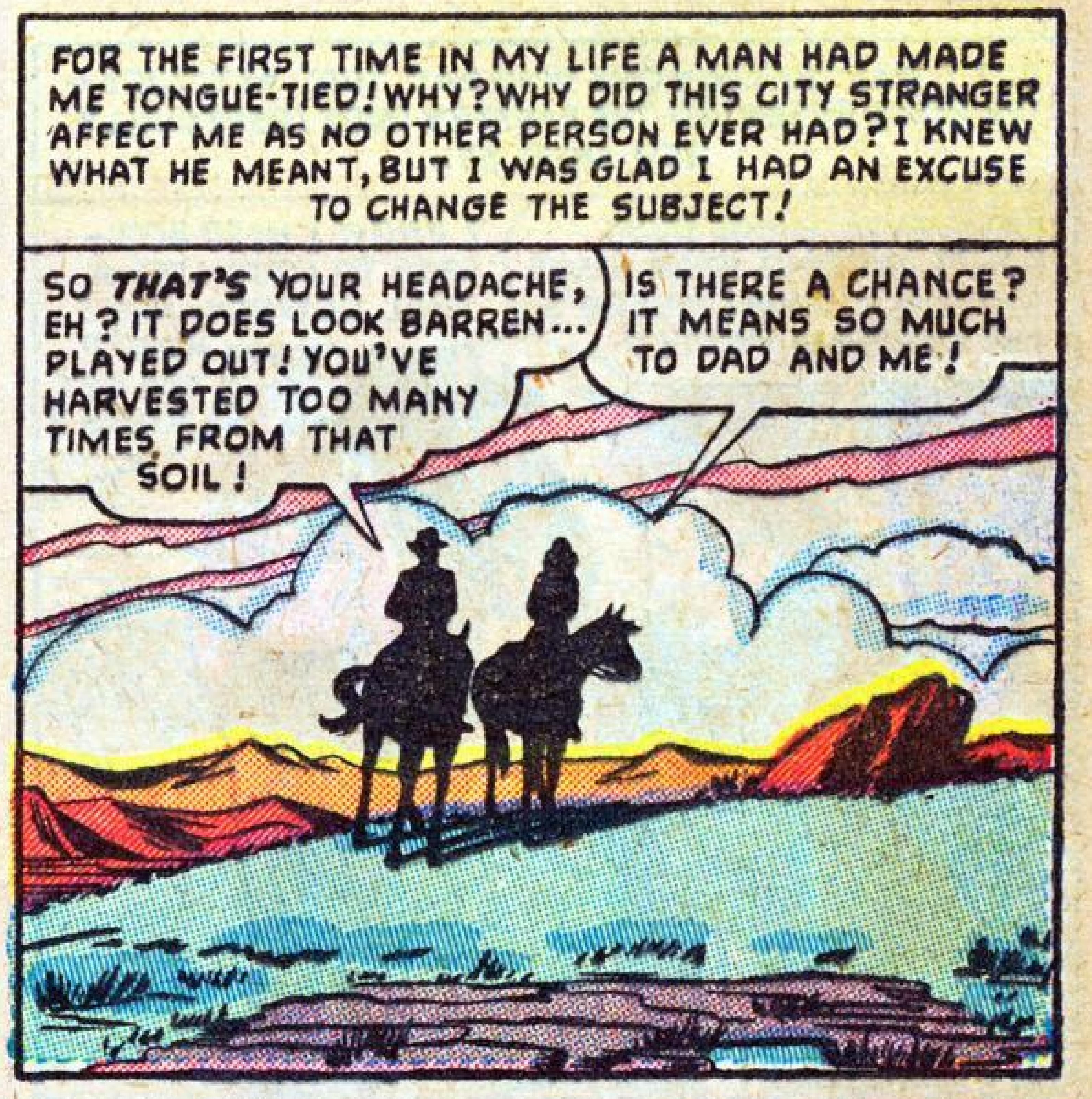

RED WAS MAD, BLAZING MAD! AND AS I RODE AWAY HIS SNARLED WORDS RANG IN MY EARS...
I'LL TAME YOU YET, BARBARA KANE... AND I'LL MAKE YOU MINE! BUT IF ANY OTHER COMES BETWEEN YOU AND ME, HE WON'T LIVE TO SEE ANOTHER SUN! 'CAUSE YOU'RE MY WOMAN, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT!
SAVE YOUR ENERGY FOR YOUR WORK, RED! I BELONG TO NO MAN!

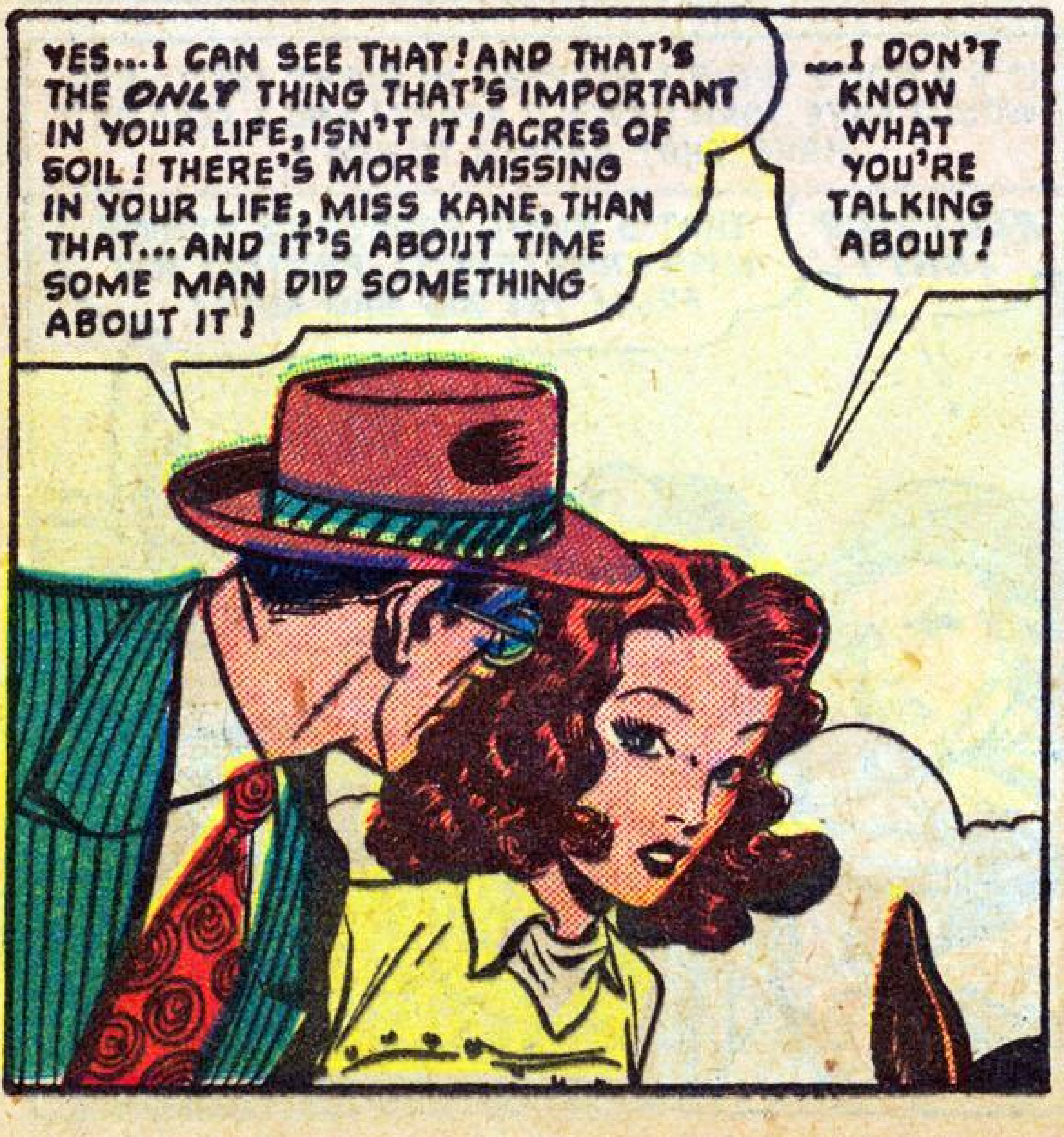

I DIDN'T THINK ANY MORE ABOUT RED! I WAS DETERMINED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE WHEAT RANGE! DAD AND RED WOULDN'T LIKE WHAT I HAD IN MIND SO I DIDN'T TELL THEM!
I'M SENDING FOR AN AGRICULTURAL EXPERT FROM CHICAGO! HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE DEAD SOIL! BUT IF DAD KNEW AN OUTSIDER WAS COMING IN TO DO THE JOB THAT RED WAS SUPPOSED TO DO, THERE'D BE THE DICKENS TO PAY! SO...
eeded our crop
nd please remember whoever you send out here, tell him to pretend he's coming as a cow-hand. Some of the men here don't take too kindly to what they call newfangled ideas, and might make it rough for him. But send someone right away. I need his help in a hurry.
Barbara Kane
ABOUT A WEEK LATER RED MOBLEY CAME INTO THE RANCH HOUSE, LAUGHING FIT TO EXPLODE!
HA-HA! HO-HO! YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT! BUT I SAW IT! HA! HA! HA!
RED, STOP MAKING LIKE A SICK COYOTE AND TELL ME WHAT'S TICKLING YOUR ORNERY HIDE!
HOW DO YOU DO?
THIS! IT SAYS IT WANTS A JOB AS A COWBOY! HA! HA! HA!
OH, DEAR!
THERE HE STOOD, TALL AND SLIM LIKE A SAPLING, DRESSED IN SUNDAY CLOTHES, WEARING GLASSES--AS OUT OF PLACE ON A RANCH AS A BALLET DANCER! BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HIM...I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS...BUT AS OUR EYES MET, SPARKS SEEMED TO EXPLODE!
AIN'T IT SOMETHIN', MISS BARBARA? THE DUDE COMES OUT HERE FROM CHICAGO TO... HEY! WHAT'S ALL THIS STARIN' AT EACH OTHER?
I BARELY HEARD RED! THEN I SHOOK MYSELF OUT OF MY REVERIE! THIS WAS THE EXPERT FROM CHICAGO I HAD SENT FOR! I HADN'T EXPECTED ANYBODY AS OUT OF THE WORLD AS THIS--HE WOULD BE AS HELPLESS AS A BABE AGAINST THE ROUGHNESS OF MEN LIKE RED!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, STRANGER?
OSWALD GARRY, MISS KANE! DO I GET THE JOB?
OSWALD! HO! HO! HO! IT'S CALLED OSWALD!
3

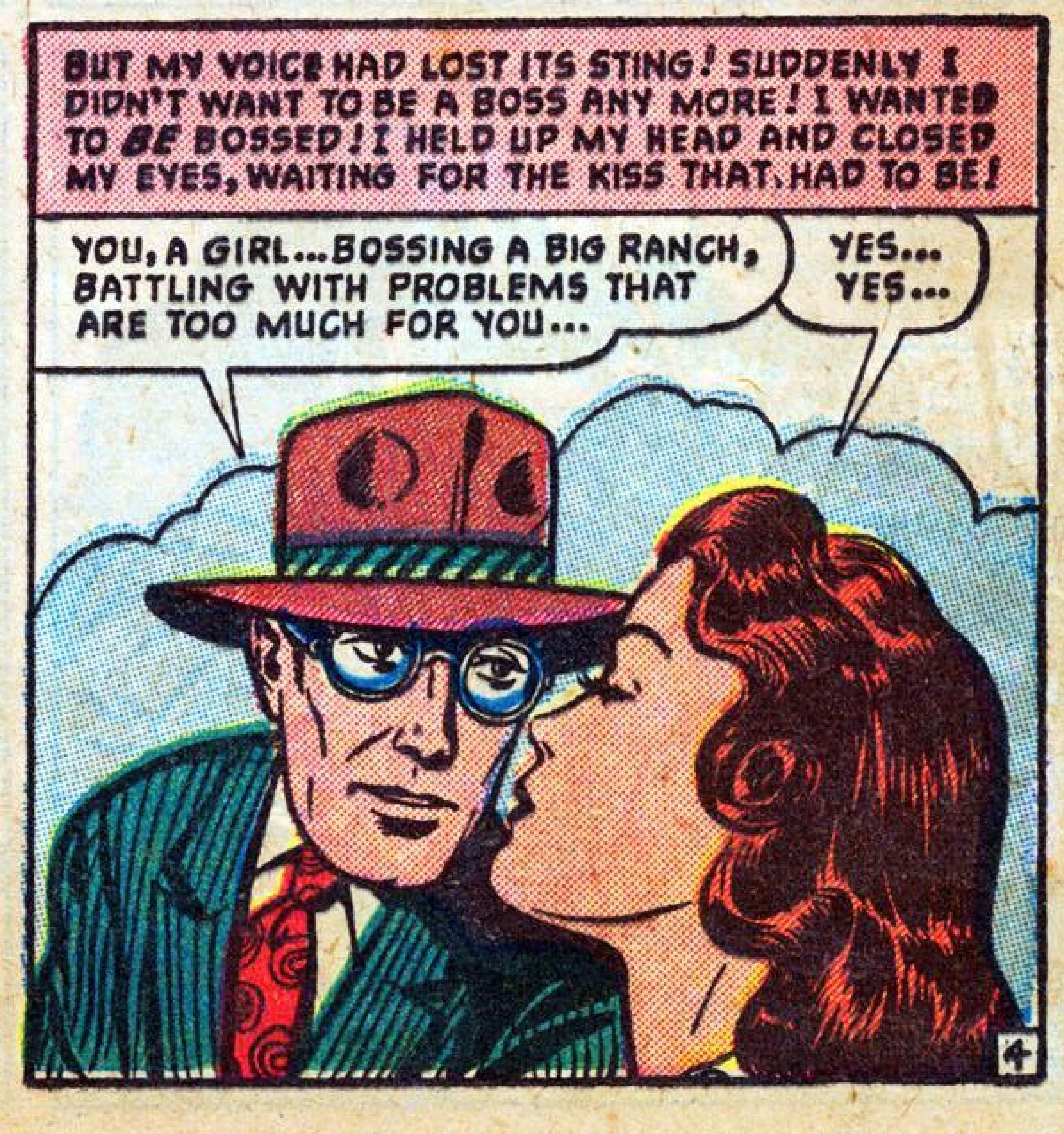

BUT ONE SHARP LOOK WAS ENOUGH TO QUIET RED! I WAS STILL HIS BOSS! HE WALKED AWAY GRUMBLING!
WHAT'S THE CIRCLE-T COMIN' TO ANYWAY? FOUR-EYED DUDES RIDIN' RANGE! A GALOOT-TENDERFOOT TALKIN' EASTERN TALK! THE OLD WEST IS DYIN' A SLOW, LINGERIN' DEATH!
THE JOB IS YOURS, OSWALD!
THANKS, MISS KANE! ER...MIND IF I RIDE OUT TO LOOK AT YOUR PROPERTY?

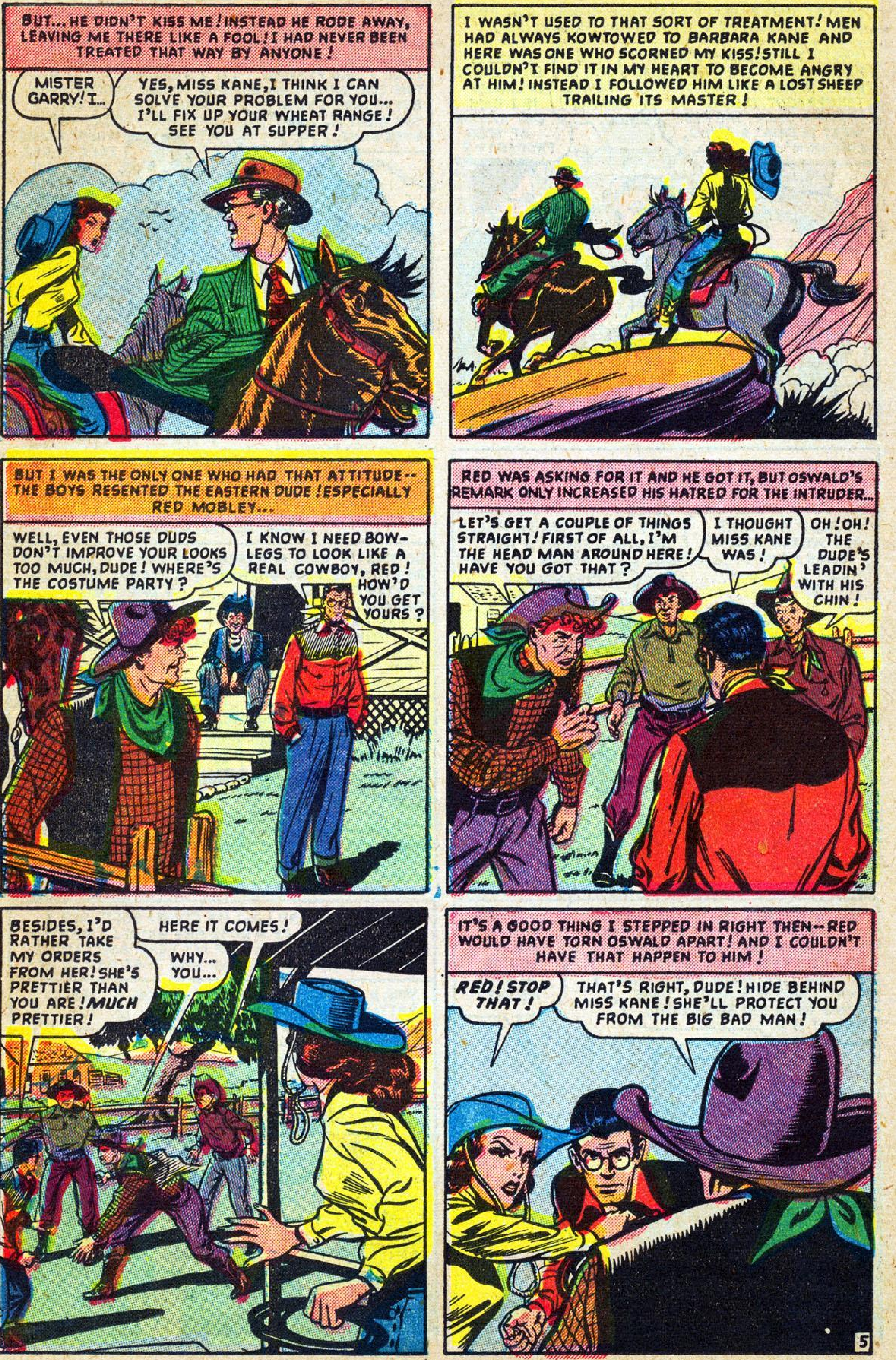

I RODE WITH HIM SO THAT WE COULD TALK IN PRIVATE! HE LOOKED KIND OF ODD WEARING HIS CITY CLOTHES ON A HORSE BUT, SOMEHOW, I DIDN'T SEEM TO MIND IT...
I DON'T LIKE PLAYING THIS TENDERFOOT GAME, BUT IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT IT, MISS KANE...
IT'S NECESSARY! RED AND DAD WOULD RESENT YOUR COMING HERE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE WHEAT RANGE! THEY FIGURE IT'S THEIR JOB!

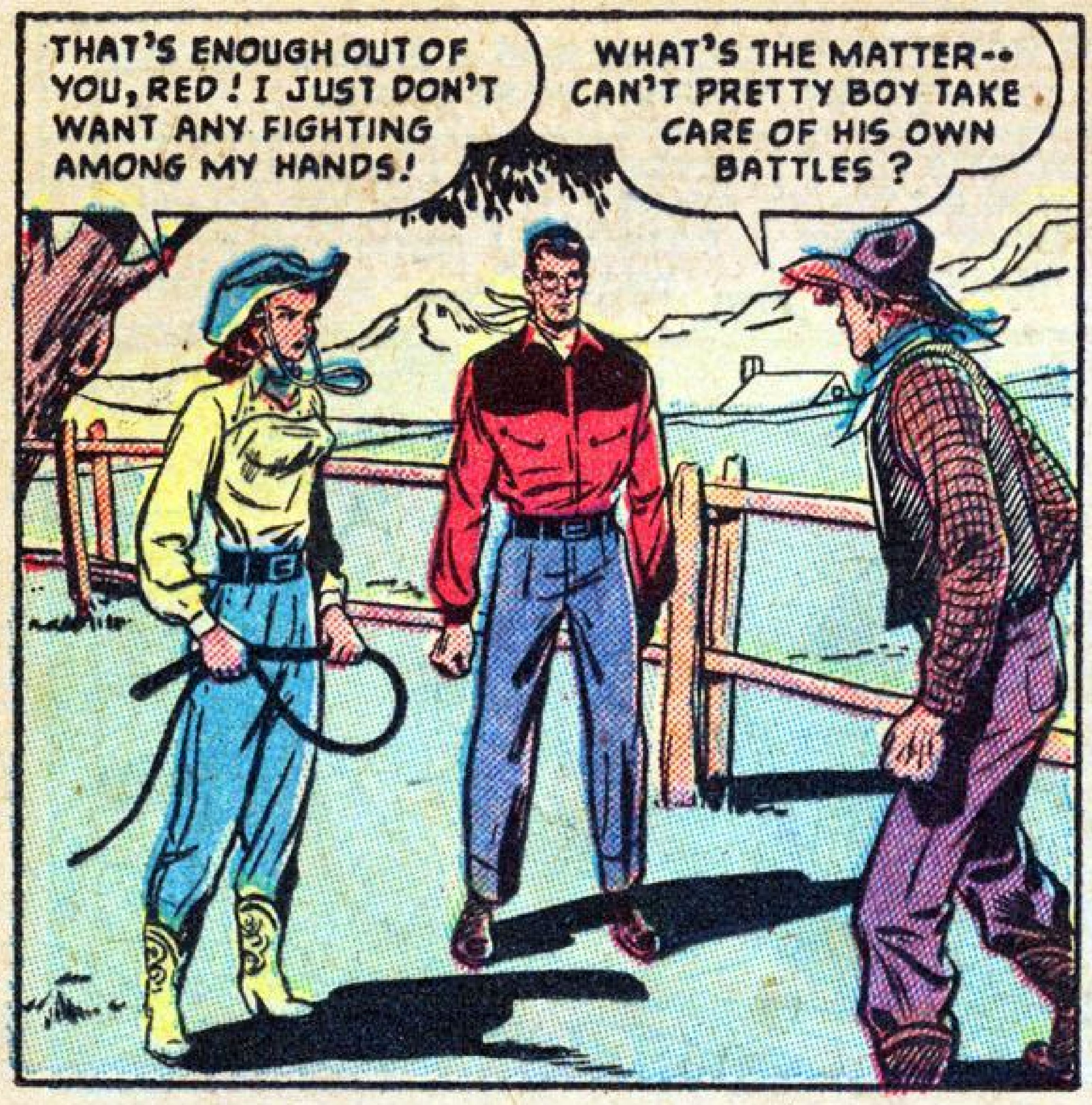

THEN HE TURNED TO LOOK AT ME AND THE LOOK IN HIS EYES AND THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE MADE MY HEART THUMP LIKE THAT OF A FRIGHTENED JACK-RABBIT!
IS *THAT* ALL THAT RED WOULD RESENT, MISS KANE?
WHY... WHATEVER DO YOU...? ER... AH... THERE'S THE RANGE...

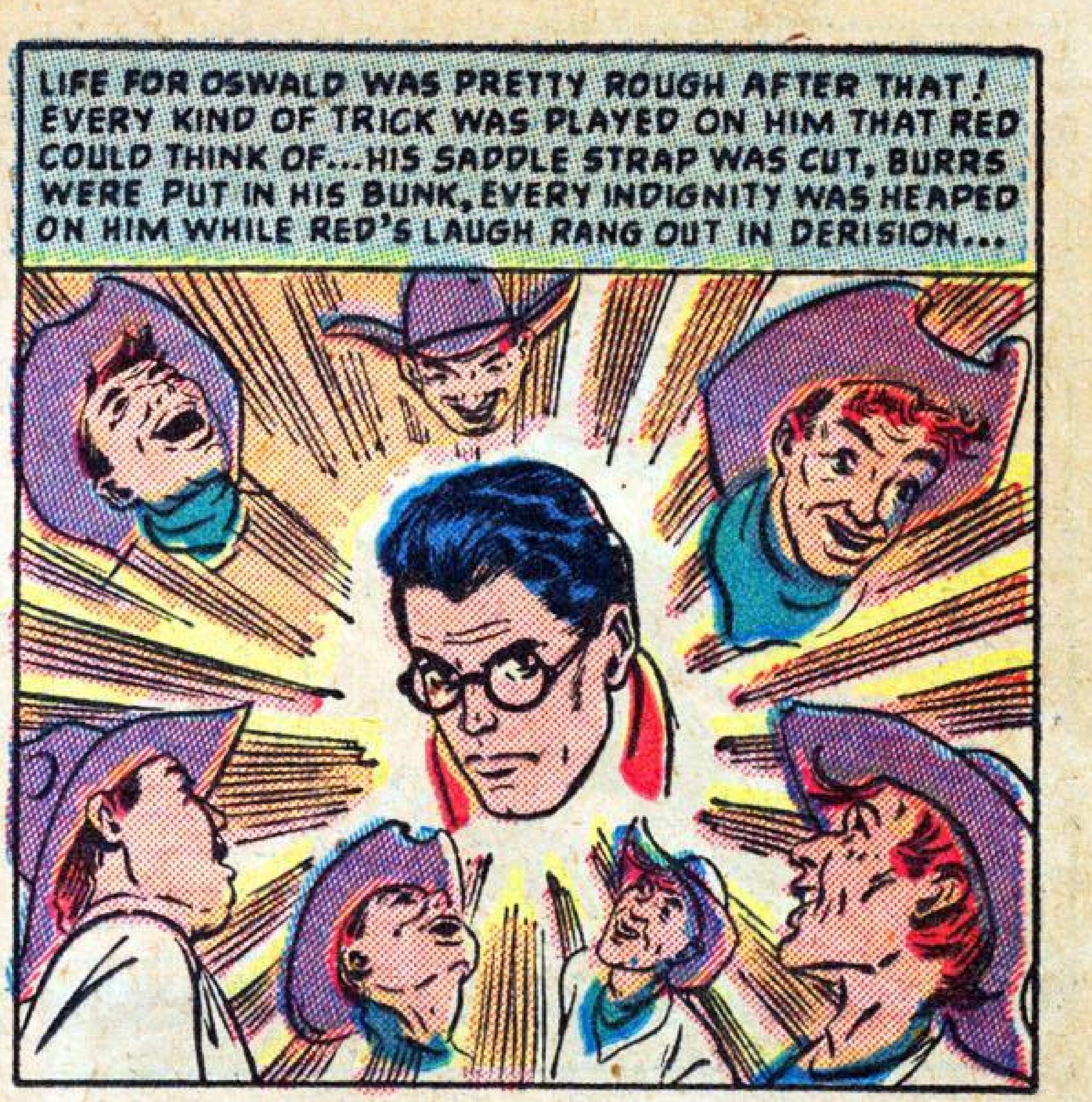

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE A MAN HAD MADE ME TONGUE-TIED! WHY? WHY DID THIS CITY STRANGER AFFECT ME AS NO OTHER PERSON EVER HAD? I KNEW WHAT HE MEANT, BUT I WAS GLAD I HAD AN EXCUSE TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT!
SO *THAT'S* YOUR HEADACHE, EH? IT DOES LOOK BARREN... PLAYED OUT! YOU'VE HARVESTED TOO MANY TIMES FROM THAT SOIL!
IS THERE A CHANCE? IT MEANS SO MUCH TO DAD AND ME!

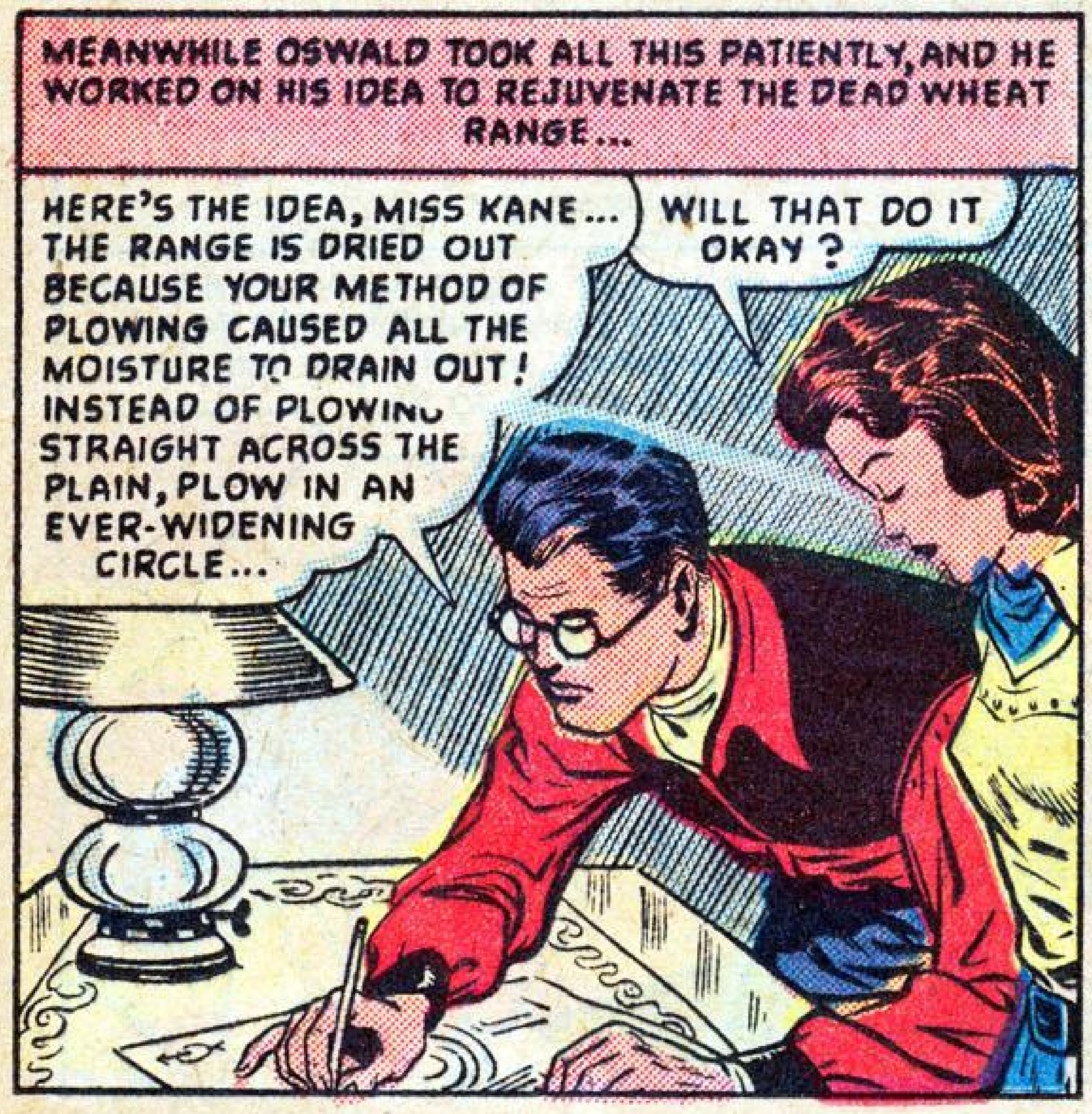

YES...I CAN SEE THAT! AND THAT'S THE *ONLY* THING THAT'S IMPORTANT IN YOUR LIFE, ISN'T IT! ACRES OF SOIL! THERE'S MORE MISSING IN YOUR LIFE, MISS KANE, THAN THAT... AND IT'S ABOUT TIME SOME MAN DID SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

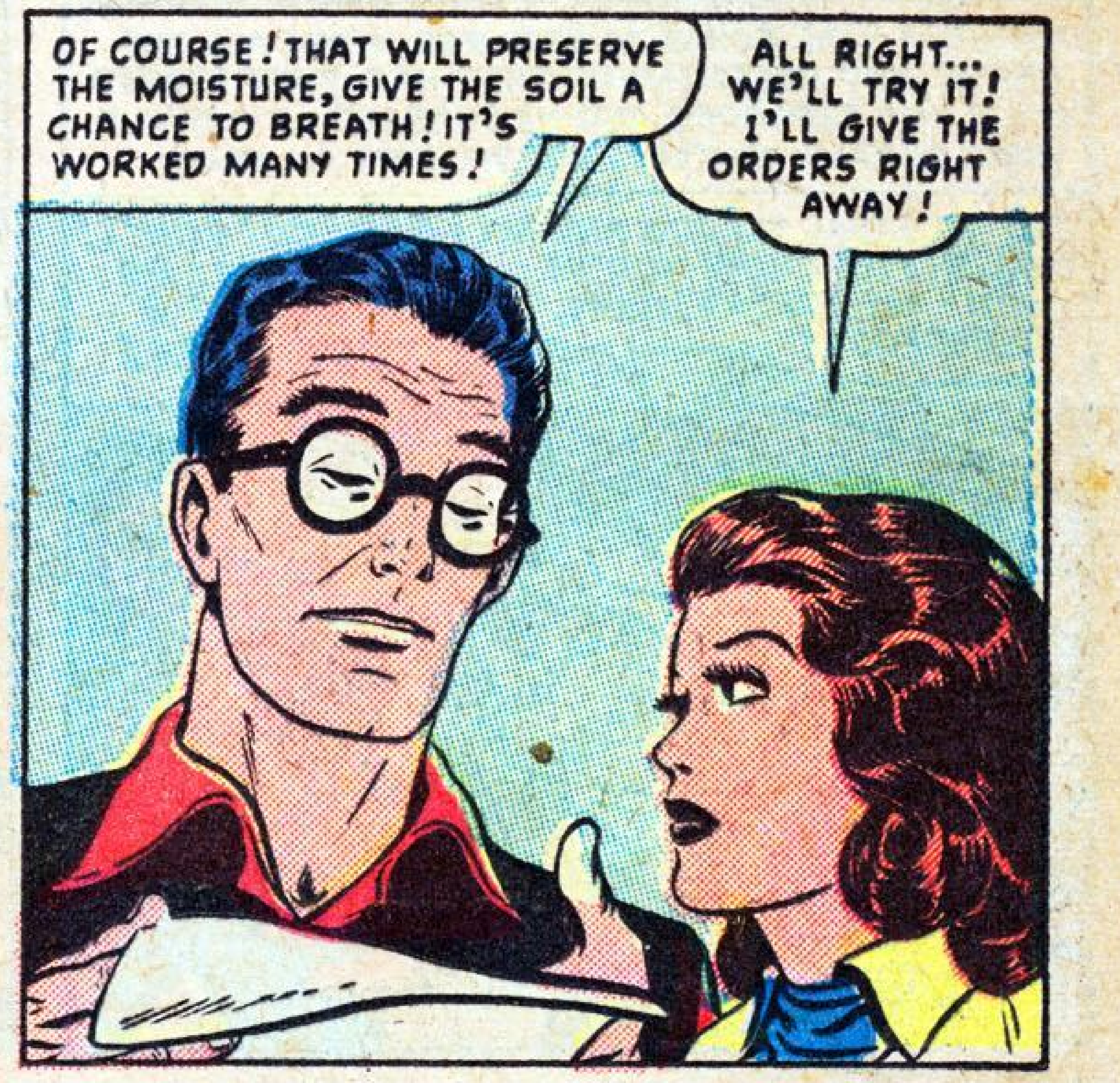

BUT MY VOICE HAD LOST ITS STING! SUDDENLY I DIDN'T WANT TO BE A BOSS ANY MORE! I WANTED TO *BE* BOSSED! I HELD UP MY HEAD AND CLOSED MY EYES, WAITING FOR THE KISS THAT HAD TO BE!
YOU, A GIRL...BOSSING A BIG RANCH, BATTLING WITH PROBLEMS THAT ARE TOO MUCH FOR YOU...
YES... YES...
4

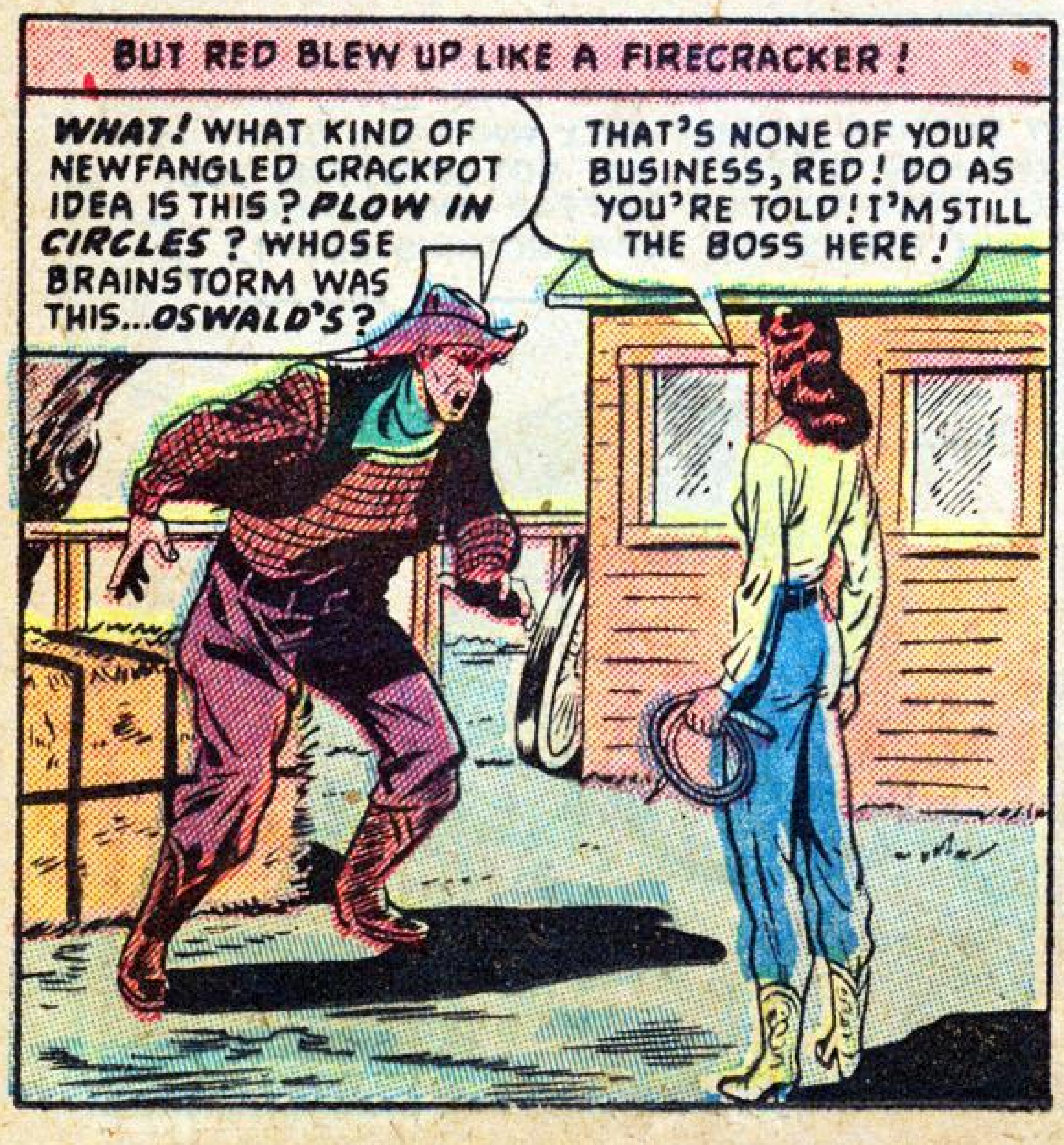

BUT... HE DIDN'T KISS ME! INSTEAD HE RODE AWAY, LEAVING ME THERE LIKE A FOOL! I HAD NEVER BEEN TREATED THAT WAY BY ANYONE!
MISTER GARRY! I...
YES, MISS KANE, I THINK I CAN SOLVE YOUR PROBLEM FOR YOU... I'LL FIX UP YOUR WHEAT RANGE! SEE YOU AT SUPPER!
I WASN'T USED TO THAT SORT OF TREATMENT! MEN HAD ALWAYS KOWTOWED TO BARBARA KANE AND HERE WAS ONE WHO SCORNED MY KISS! STILL I COULDN'T FIND IT IN MY HEART TO BECOME ANGRY AT HIM! INSTEAD I FOLLOWED HIM LIKE A LOST SHEEP TRAILING ITS MASTER!
BUT I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO HAD THAT ATTITUDE-- THE BOYS RESENTED THE EASTERN DUDE! ESPECIALLY RED MOBLEY...
WELL, EVEN THOSE DUDS DON'T IMPROVE YOUR LOOKS TOO MUCH, DUDE! WHERE'S THE COSTUME PARTY?
I KNOW I NEED BOW-LEGS TO LOOK LIKE A REAL COWBOY, RED! HOW'D YOU GET YOURS?
RED WAS ASKING FOR IT AND HE GOT IT, BUT OSWALD'S REMARK ONLY INCREASED HIS HATRED FOR THE INTRUDER...
LET'S GET A COUPLE OF THINGS STRAIGHT! FIRST OF ALL, I'M THE HEAD MAN AROUND HERE! HAVE YOU GOT THAT?
I THOUGHT MISS KANE WAS!
OH! OH! THE DUDE'S LEADIN' WITH HIS CHIN!
BESIDES, I'D RATHER TAKE MY ORDERS FROM HER! SHE'S PRETTIER THAN YOU ARE! *MUCH* PRETTIER!
HERE IT COMES!
WHY... YOU...
IT'S A GOOD THING I STEPPED IN RIGHT THEN--RED WOULD HAVE TORN OSWALD APART! AND I COULDN'T HAVE THAT HAPPEN TO HIM!
RED! STOP THAT!
THAT'S RIGHT, DUDE! HIDE BEHIND MISS KANE! SHE'LL PROTECT YOU FROM THE BIG BAD MAN!

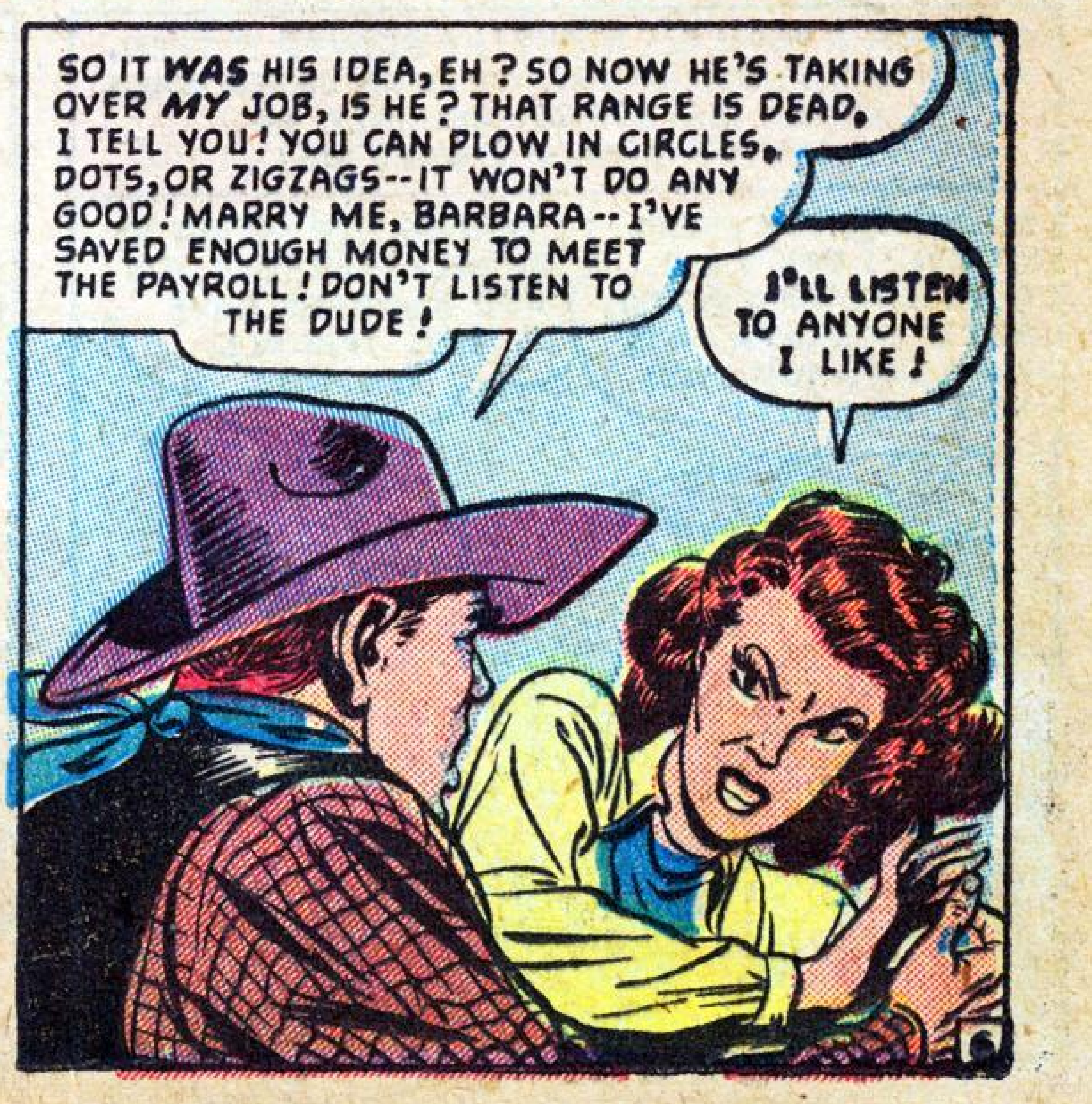

THAT'S ENOUGH OUT OF YOU, RED! I JUST DON'T WANT ANY FIGHTING AMONG MY HANDS!
WHAT'S THE MATTER-- CAN'T PRETTY BOY TAKE CARE OF HIS OWN BATTLES?

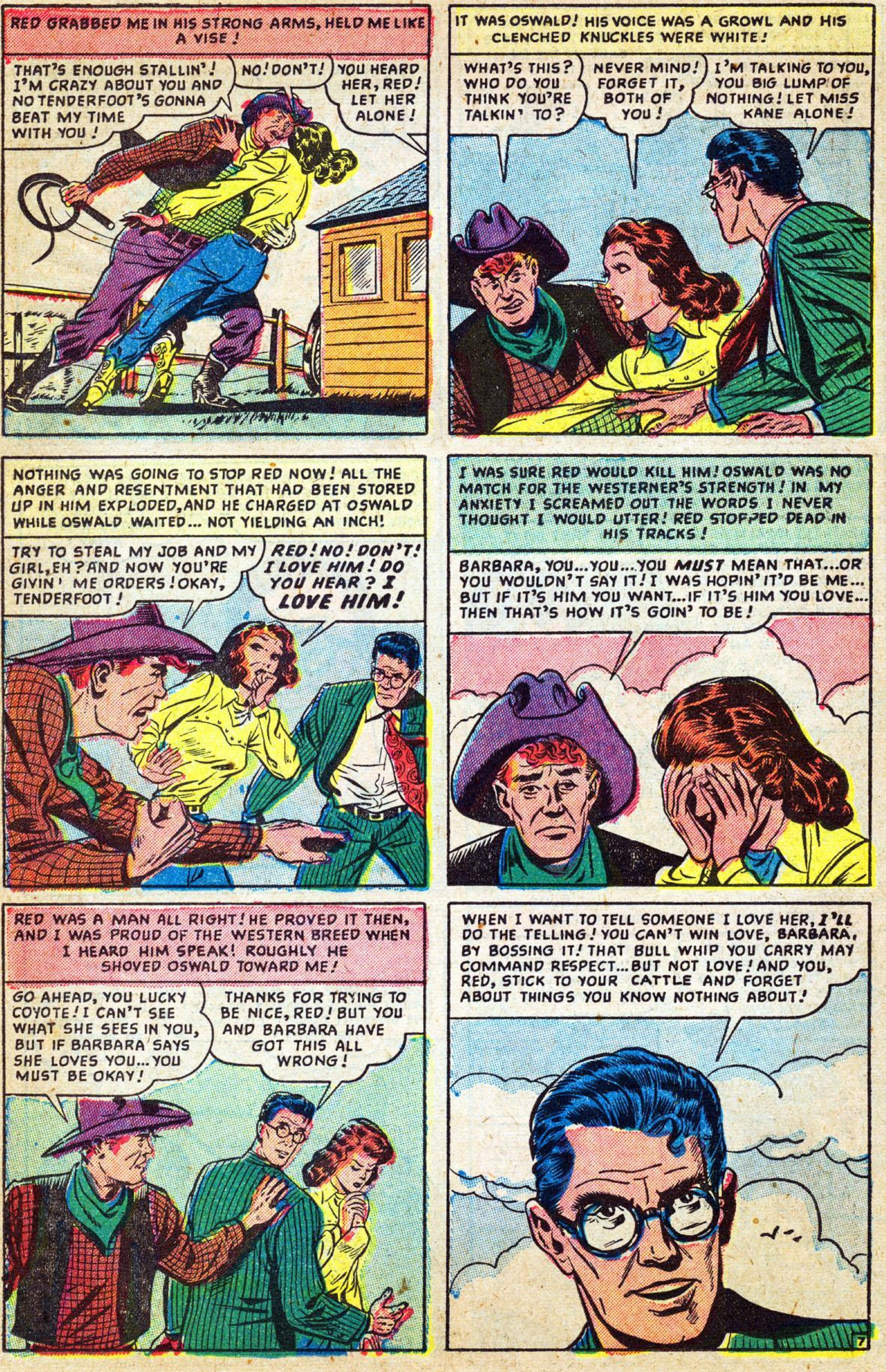

LIFE FOR OSWALD WAS PRETTY ROUGH AFTER THAT! EVERY KIND OF TRICK WAS PLAYED ON HIM THAT RED COULD THINK OF... HIS SADDLE STRAP WAS CUT, BURRS WERE PUT IN HIS BUNK, EVERY INDIGNITY WAS HEAPED ON HIM WHILE RED'S LAUGH RANG OUT IN DERISION...

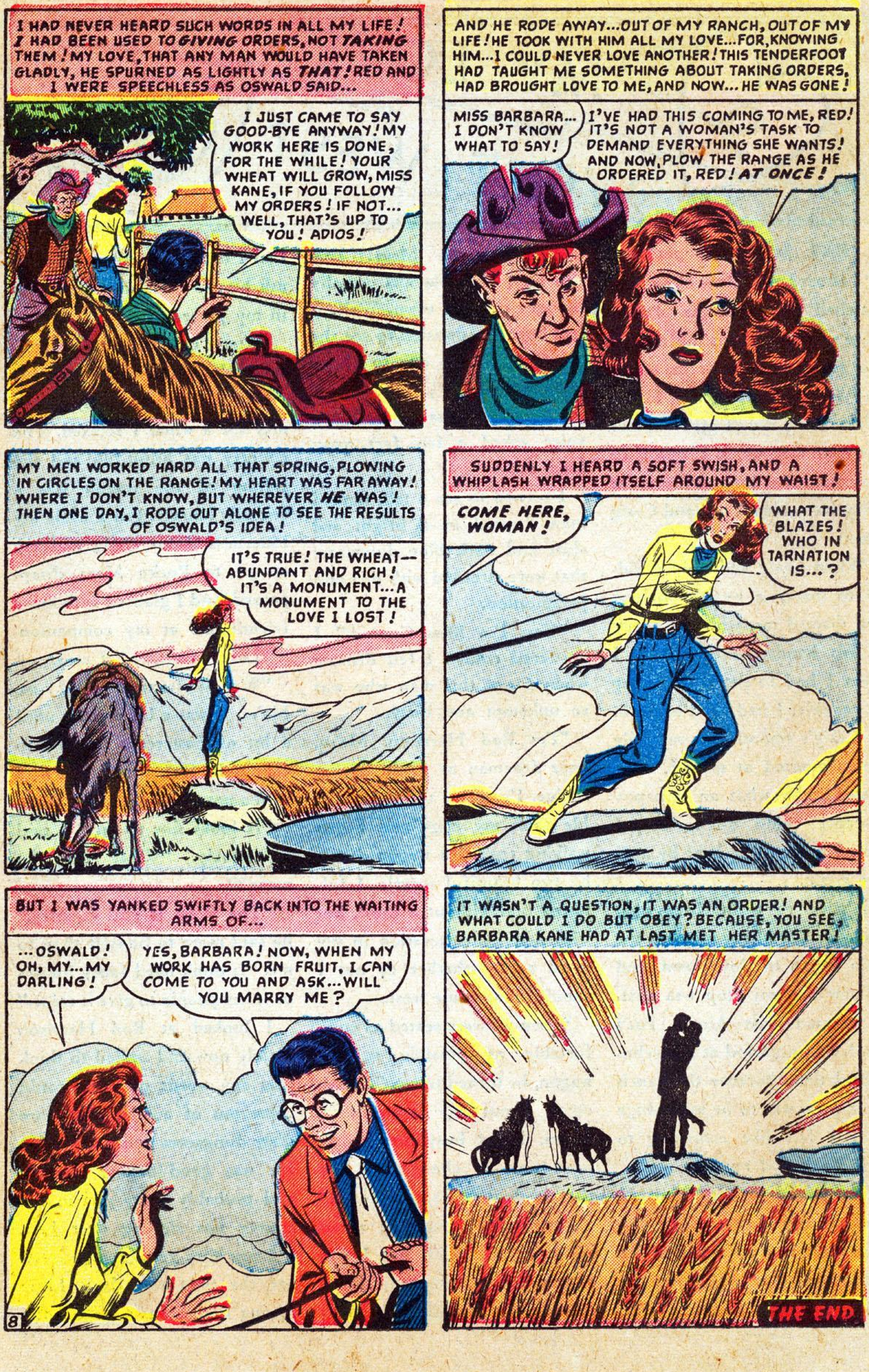

MEANWHILE OSWALD TOOK ALL THIS PATIENTLY, AND HE WORKED ON HIS IDEA TO REJUVENATE THE DEAD WHEAT RANGE...
HERE'S THE IDEA, MISS KANE... THE RANGE IS DRIED OUT BECAUSE YOUR METHOD OF PLOWING CAUSED ALL THE MOISTURE TO DRAIN OUT! INSTEAD OF PLOWING STRAIGHT ACROSS THE PLAIN, PLOW IN AN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLE...
WILL THAT DO IT OKAY?

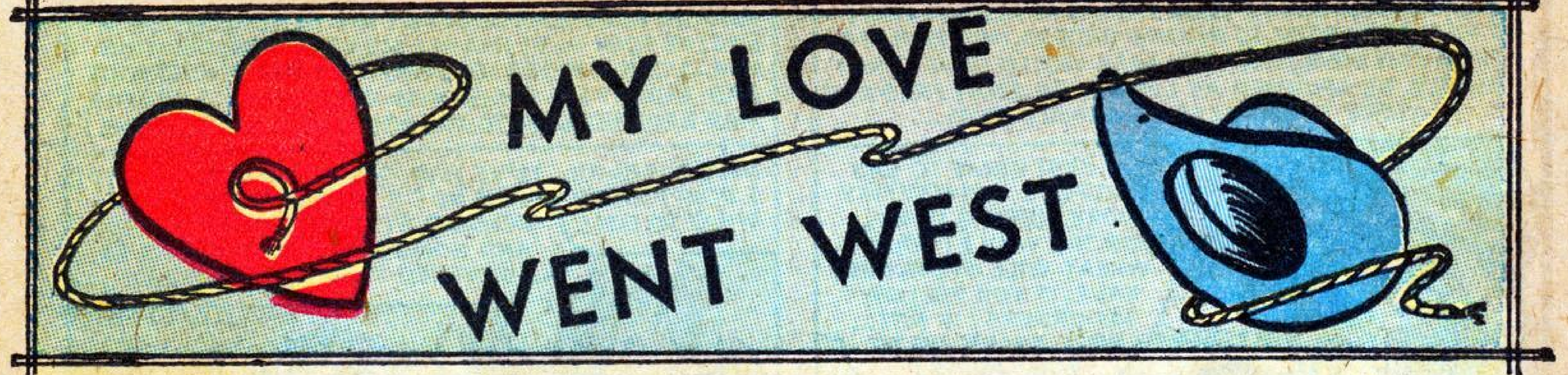

OF COURSE! THAT WILL PRESERVE THE MOISTURE, GIVE THE SOIL A CHANCE TO BREATH! IT'S WORKED MANY TIMES!
ALL RIGHT... WE'LL TRY IT! I'LL GIVE THE ORDERS RIGHT AWAY!


BUT RED BLEW UP LIKE A FIRECRACKER!
WHAT! WHAT KIND OF NEWFANGLED CRACKPOT IDEA IS THIS? PLOW IN CIRCLES? WHOSE BRAINSTORM WAS THIS... OSWALD'S?
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, RED! DO AS YOU'RE TOLD! I'M STILL THE BOSS HERE!


SO IT WAS HIS IDEA, EH? SO NOW HE'S TAKING OVER MY JOB, IS HE? THAT RANGE IS DEAD, I TELL YOU! YOU CAN PLOW IN CIRCLES, DOTS, OR ZIGZAGS-- IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD! MARRY ME, BARBARA-- I'VE SAVED ENOUGH MONEY TO MEET THE PAYROLL! DON'T LISTEN TO THE DUDE!
I'LL LISTEN TO ANYONE I LIKE!
6


RED GRABBED ME IN HIS STRONG ARMS, HELD ME LIKE A VISE!
THAT'S ENOUGH STALLIN'! I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU AND NO TENDERFOOT'S GONNA BEAT MY TIME WITH YOU!
NO! DON'T!
YOU HEARD HER, RED! LET HER ALONE!
IT WAS OSWALD! HIS VOICE WAS A GROWL AND HIS CLENCHED KNUCKLES WERE WHITE!
WHAT'S THIS? WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKIN' TO?
NEVER MIND! FORGET IT, BOTH OF YOU!
I'M TALKING TO YOU, YOU BIG LUMP OF NOTHING! LET MISS KANE ALONE!
NOTHING WAS GOING TO STOP RED NOW! ALL THE ANGER AND RESENTMENT THAT HAD BEEN STORED UP IN HIM EXPLODED, AND HE CHARGED AT OSWALD WHILE OSWALD WAITED... NOT YIELDING AN INCH!
TRY TO STEAL MY JOB AND MY GIRL, EH? AND NOW YOU'RE GIVIN' ME ORDERS! OKAY, TENDERFOOT!
RED! NO! DON'T! I LOVE HIM! DO YOU HEAR? I LOVE HIM!
I WAS SURE RED WOULD KILL HIM! OSWALD WAS NO MATCH FOR THE WESTERNER'S STRENGTH! IN MY ANXIETY I SCREAMED OUT THE WORDS I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD UTTER! RED STOPPED DEAD IN HIS TRACKS!
BARBARA, YOU...YOU....YOU *MUST* MEAN THAT...OR YOU WOULDN'T SAY IT! I WAS HOPIN' IT'D BE ME... BUT IF IT'S HIM YOU WANT...IF IT'S HIM YOU LOVE... THEN THAT'S HOW IT'S GOIN' TO BE!
RED WAS A MAN ALL RIGHT! HE PROVED IT THEN, AND I WAS PROUD OF THE WESTERN BREED WHEN I HEARD HIM SPEAK! ROUGHLY HE SHOVED OSWALD TOWARD ME!
GO AHEAD, YOU LUCKY COYOTE! I CAN'T SEE WHAT SHE SEES IN YOU, BUT IF BARBARA SAYS SHE LOVES YOU...YOU MUST BE OKAY!
THANKS FOR TRYING TO BE NICE, RED! BUT YOU AND BARBARA HAVE GOT THIS ALL WRONG!
WHEN I WANT TO TELL SOMEONE I LOVE HER, *I'LL* DO THE TELLING! YOU CAN'T WIN LOVE, BARBARA, BY BOSSING IT! THAT BULL WHIP YOU CARRY MAY COMMAND RESPECT...BUT NOT LOVE! AND YOU, RED, STICK TO YOUR CATTLE AND FORGET ABOUT THINGS YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT!


I HAD NEVER HEARD SUCH WORDS IN ALL MY LIFE! I HAD BEEN USED TO *GIVING* ORDERS, NOT *TAKING* THEM! MY LOVE, THAT ANY MAN WOULD HAVE TAKEN GLADLY, HE SPURNED AS LIGHTLY AS *THAT!* RED AND I WERE SPEECHLESS AS OSWALD SAID...
I JUST CAME TO SAY GOOD-BYE ANYWAY! MY WORK HERE IS DONE, FOR THE WHILE! YOUR WHEAT WILL *GROW*, MISS KANE, IF YOU FOLLOW MY ORDERS! IF NOT... WELL, THAT'S UP TO YOU! ADIOS!
AND HE RODE AWAY...OUT OF MY RANCH, OUT OF MY LIFE! HE TOOK WITH HIM ALL MY LOVE...FOR, KNOWING HIM...I COULD NEVER LOVE ANOTHER! THIS TENDERFOOT HAD TAUGHT ME SOMETHING ABOUT TAKING ORDERS, HAD BROUGHT LOVE TO ME, AND NOW... HE WAS GONE!
MISS BARBARA... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!
I'VE HAD THIS COMING TO ME, RED! IT'S NOT A WOMAN'S TASK TO DEMAND EVERYTHING SHE WANTS! AND NOW, PLOW THE RANGE AS HE ORDERED IT, RED! **AT ONCE!**
MY MEN WORKED HARD ALL THAT SPRING, PLOWING IN CIRCLES ON THE RANGE! MY HEART WAS FAR AWAY! WHERE I DON'T KNOW, BUT WHEREVER *HE* WAS! THEN ONE DAY, I RODE OUT ALONE TO SEE THE RESULTS OF OSWALD'S IDEA!
IT'S TRUE! THE WHEAT-- ABUNDANT AND RICH! IT'S A MONUMENT...A MONUMENT TO THE LOVE I LOST!
SUDDENLY I HEARD A SOFT SWISH, AND A WHIPLASH WRAPPED ITSELF AROUND MY WAIST!
COME HERE, WOMAN!
WHAT THE BLAZES! WHO IN TARNATION IS...?
BUT I WAS YANKED SWIFTLY BACK INTO THE WAITING ARMS OF...
...OSWALD! OH, MY...MY DARLING!
YES, BARBARA! NOW, WHEN MY WORK HAS BORN FRUIT, I CAN COME TO YOU AND ASK...WILL YOU MARRY ME?
IT WASN'T A QUESTION, IT WAS AN ORDER! AND WHAT COULD I DO BUT OBEY? BECAUSE, YOU SEE, BARBARA KANE HAD AT LAST MET HER MASTER!
THE END



MY LOVE WENT WEST

I SAT in my compartment aboard the Silver Chief and watched the panorama of Arizona's scenic plains unfold. It was going to be a warm, sunny day for my introduction to the West. But I didn't care whether the train stopped in Flagstaff or Kalamazoo, as long as it was far away from New York and Craig Ames.

When Craig suddenly decided to marry a wealthy heiress and discard me, with one shrug of his handsome shoulders, I knew I had to get as far away as possible. I had been taken in by Craig's smooth line so easily I was amazed at myself. Now that I knew what an unhappy romance could do to me, I vowed never to be hurt by anyone again.

I tried to push these ugly thoughts out of my mind as the train began to slow down, and I knew that my stop was next. It seemed that Uncle Pat's death had occurred at a psychological time, because the ranch he left me was to be my refuge until I felt like returning to New York and my job.

The porter took my bags. I grabbed my jacket when the train came to a stop, and as the conductor helped me down the steps, I looked about me. So this was Rocky Mesa! This dried-up, dirt-hole was actually thought of as a town. Well, it had been my decision to see the West; I had no one to blame but myself.

"Are you Miss Conrad?" a voice asked a few feet away from me.

I turned to see a tall, tanned man dressed in a bright red shirt and dark blue dungarees that were streaked with dirt and perspiration.

"Yes, I'm Miss Conrad," I answered coldly. I felt distaste when I saw this man who was so unkempt and dirty.

"I'm Rod Harrison, Ma'm, your foreman at Little Spring Lodge. I've come to fetch you." He took my bags and began walking toward a wagon drawn by two beautiful sorrels. I followed him without a word, but with a definite question in my mind as to whether or not I should have come west.

When we were seated as comfortably as possible in the wagon, he turned to me. "I apologize about my appearance, Ma'm. I got busy and didn't have time to change. I'll see that it doesn't happen again."

I muttered something about it's being all right, but I was surprised by his uncanny ability to read my thoughts. He knew that I had made up my mind to ask him to dress more properly in my presence.

After I had asked a few questions about my uncle and his death, we drove on in silence, and for a while I relaxed. The country was beautiful, and the jolting of the wagon was a friendly bounce. For a while my bitterness about Craig and my escape to Rocky Mesa disappeared, and I glanced with more friendliness at my companion.

"Lovely country," I said.

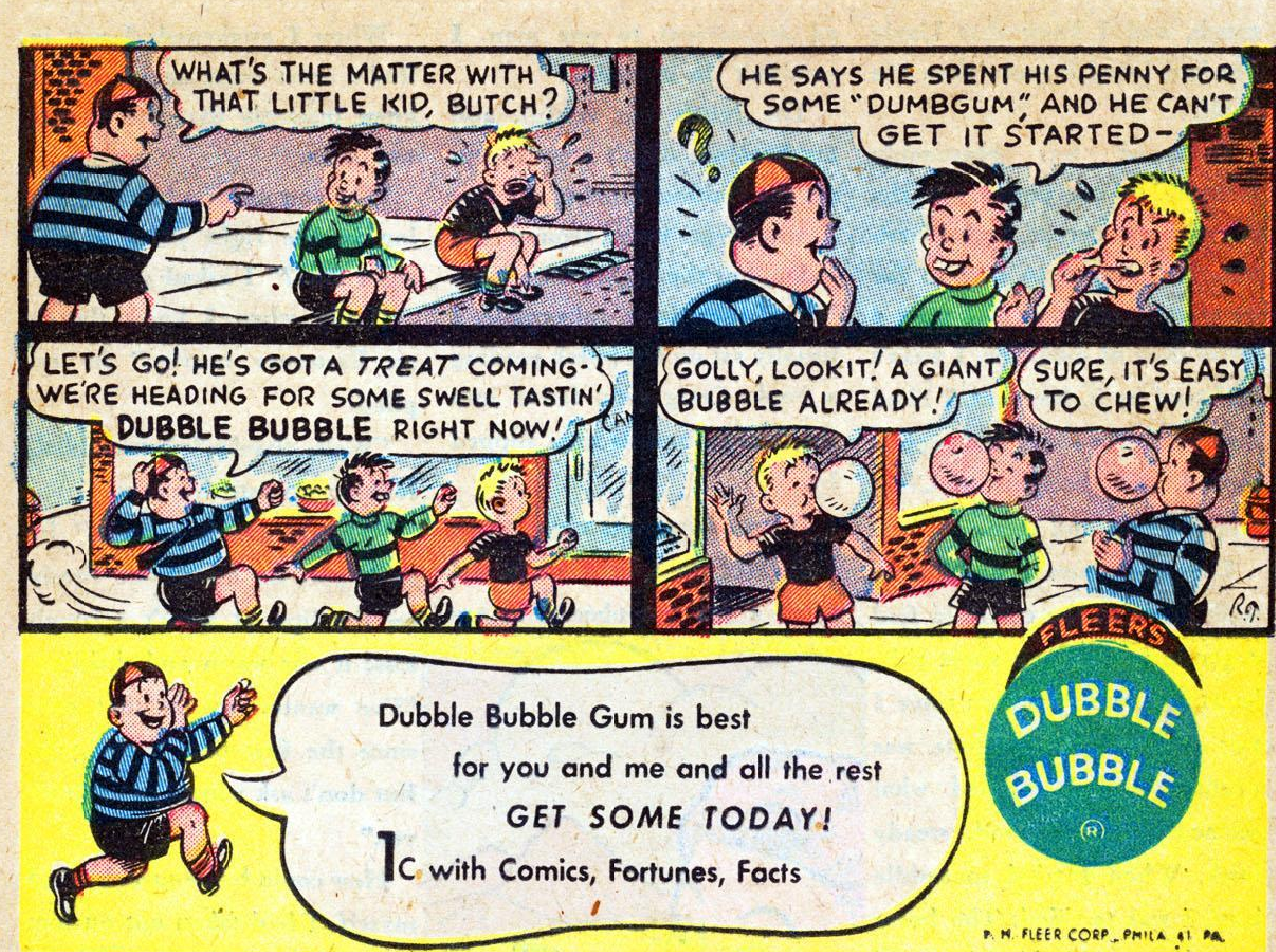
"We Westerners think so, Ma'm. It was a lot prettier until a lot of Easterners decided to change its face a mite," he said with a note of anger in his voice.

"It looks fine to me," I said defensively. "What do you mean?"

"The West is real country," he said more to himself than to me. "It don't need fancy houses or fancy people to give it color."

I looked at Rod Harrison closely now and smiled to think that any words of value could come out of a man who wore dirty dungarees and a red shirt. He was good-looking though, and probably every girl in the county was sighing over him.

I was busy getting acquainted for the next few days. Little Spring Lodge was a large cattle


WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THAT LITTLE KID, BUTCH?
HE SAYS HE SPENT HIS PENNY FOR SOME "DUMBGUM" AND HE CAN'T GET IT STARTED–
LET'S GO! HE'S GOT A TREAT COMING- WE'RE HEADING FOR SOME SWELL TASTIN' DUBBLE BUBBLE RIGHT NOW!
GOLLY, LOOKIT! A GIANT BUBBLE ALREADY!
SURE, IT'S EASY TO CHEW!
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the sign of a good comic

ranch, and I knew that Uncle Pat had loved it more than life itself.

Everyone was reasonably friendly to me under the circumstances, except Rod Harrison. He seemed to stay as far away as possible, as if I were a bitter dose of medicine. I wasn't bothered by it, however. I liked men who were suave and sophisticated, and thoughts of Craig crept in now and then.

One afternoon I decided to walk down to the corral to find a gentle horse for a short ride, because I hadn't ridden since I was a little girl. No one was around, and I selected what seemed to be a good, steady buck. When I tried to saddle him, I was terrified. The horse reared up on his hind legs and started toward me. Suddenly the ground came up to meet me and I heard a voice shout, "*Down, Red, down!*"

I felt strong arms around my shoulder, and I looked up to see Rod peering at me anxiously. "Are you all right, Miss Conrad?"

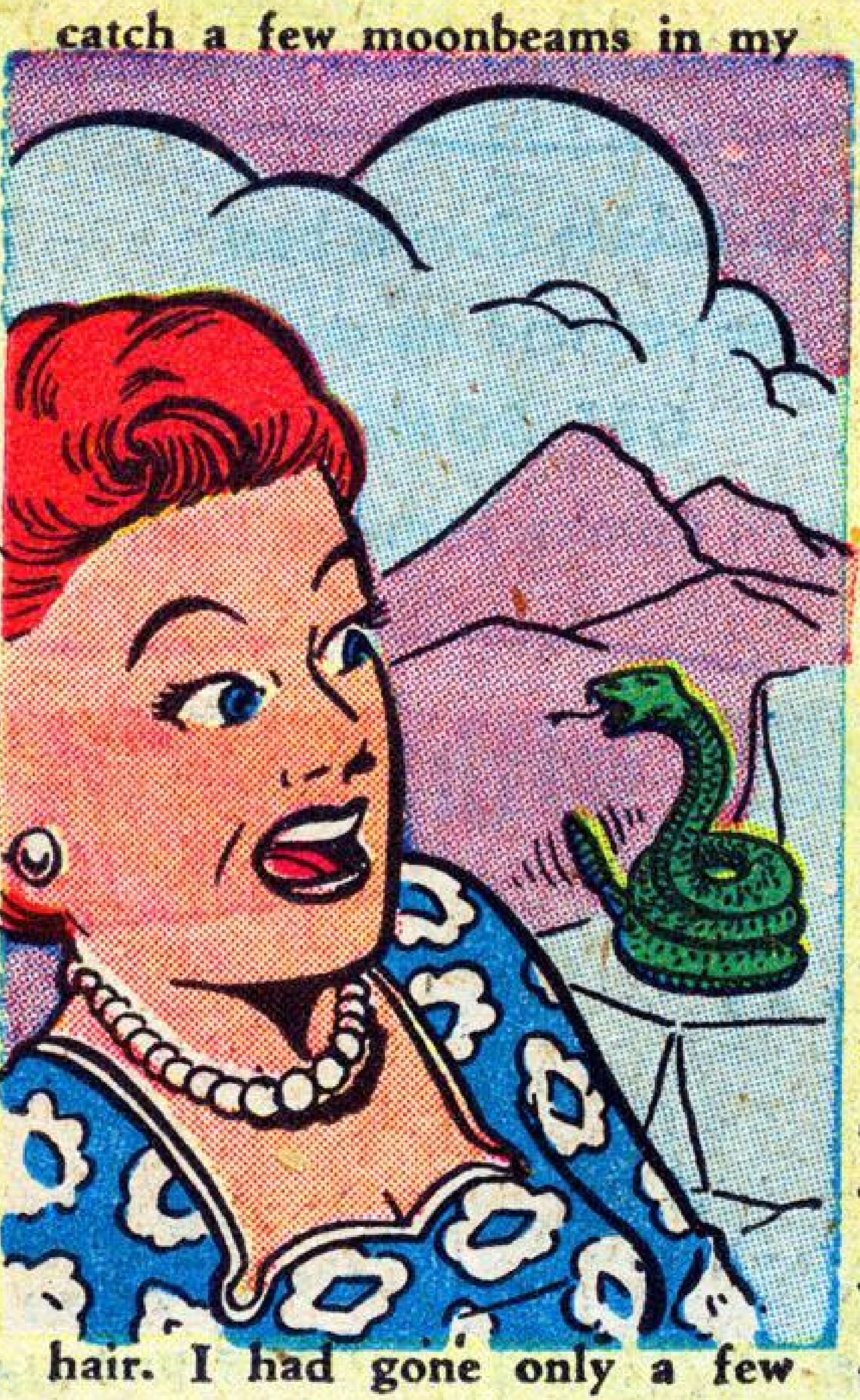
"I guess I'll live," I said, shaking my head dazedly. "What's the matter with Red?"

"She only lets *me* ride her. 'Fraid she's a mite temperamental."

I stood up and brushed myself off. Rod stood by, and when glanced up at him, he was smiling slightly. I turned around d left in a huff. I had afforded amusement to one man. I wouldn't do it again.

The ranch was restful, and my presence didn't seem to upset the routine. During the day I was kept busy around the lodge, but the nights were lonely and sometimes unbearable. I usually sat on the porch reading a book. Craig soon faded into the background as time slipped by.

It was a moonlit night when I decided to take a walk and catch a few moonbeams in my hair. I had gone only a few steps down a quiet lane, when I heard a strange noise that made me freeze in my tracks. It was the unmistake sound of a rattler. I was afraid to call for help, so I just stood still, hoping that some miracle would happen. When I saw the snake slithering toward me, my heart thumped in fear, Then everything went black, as a shot broke the silence.



When I awakened, I was in Rod's arms once again, and I knew instantly that the danger was over.

"Do you make a habit of being in the right place at the right time?" I asked gratefully.

"Only when I know there's an Easterner nearby," he replied.

"Well, thanks," I mumbled, looking up into his eyes.

"Thanks aren't enough," he said, and he kissed me firmly on the lips. It wasn't a rough kiss; it was warm and thrilling. "I've wanted to do that ever since the first time I saw you. But don't ask why; I'm not sure yet."

How could he be sure, I asked myself. I had taken out on him all my bitterness for Craig. I had never thanked him fully for saving my life or taking care of the ranch. All that I had remembered was a pair of dusty dungarees and a wrinkled shirt. They blocked my view of a man who was going to help me forget the past and build the future.

Maybe Rod didn't understand now why he had wanted to kiss me, when I stepped off that train, but he would. I felt all the lingering traces of bitterness fade away. The West began to mean something important to me, and with Rod's arms tightly around my shoulders, I felt secure and happy for the first time in many, many months.

THE END

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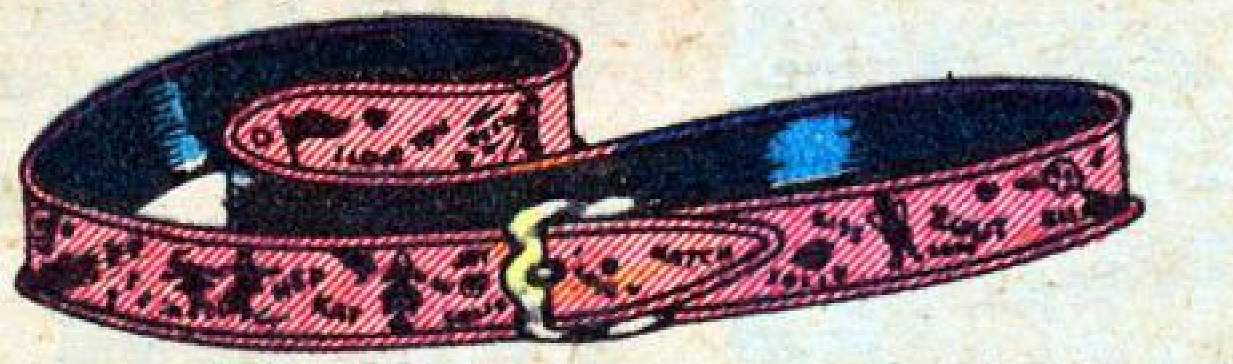

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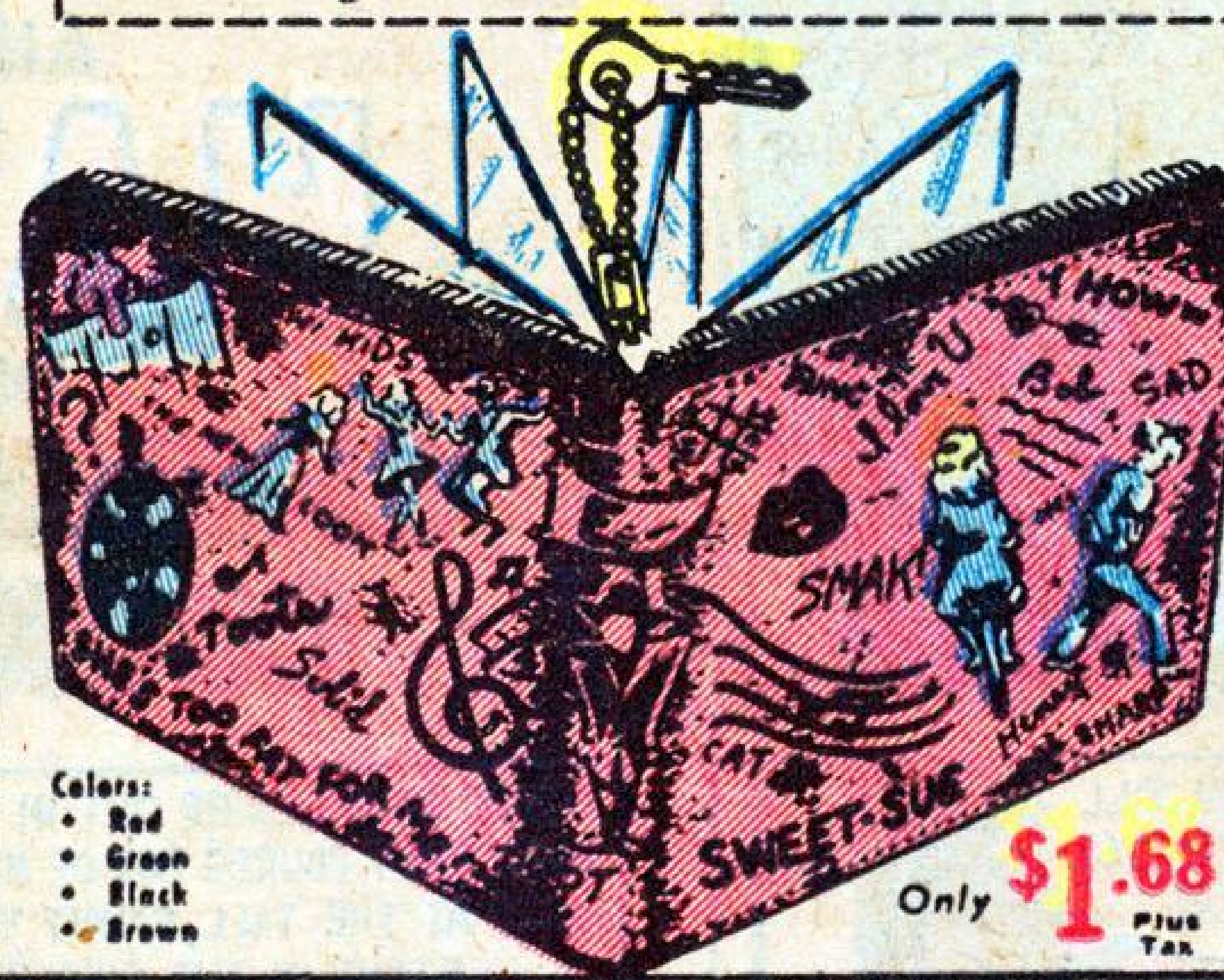

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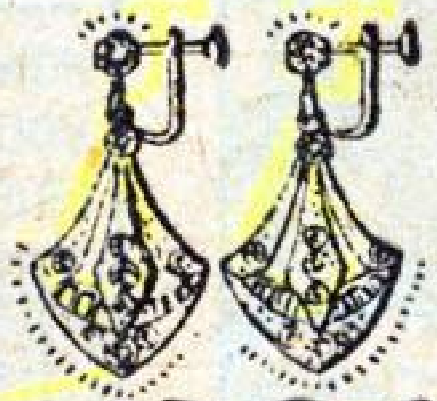

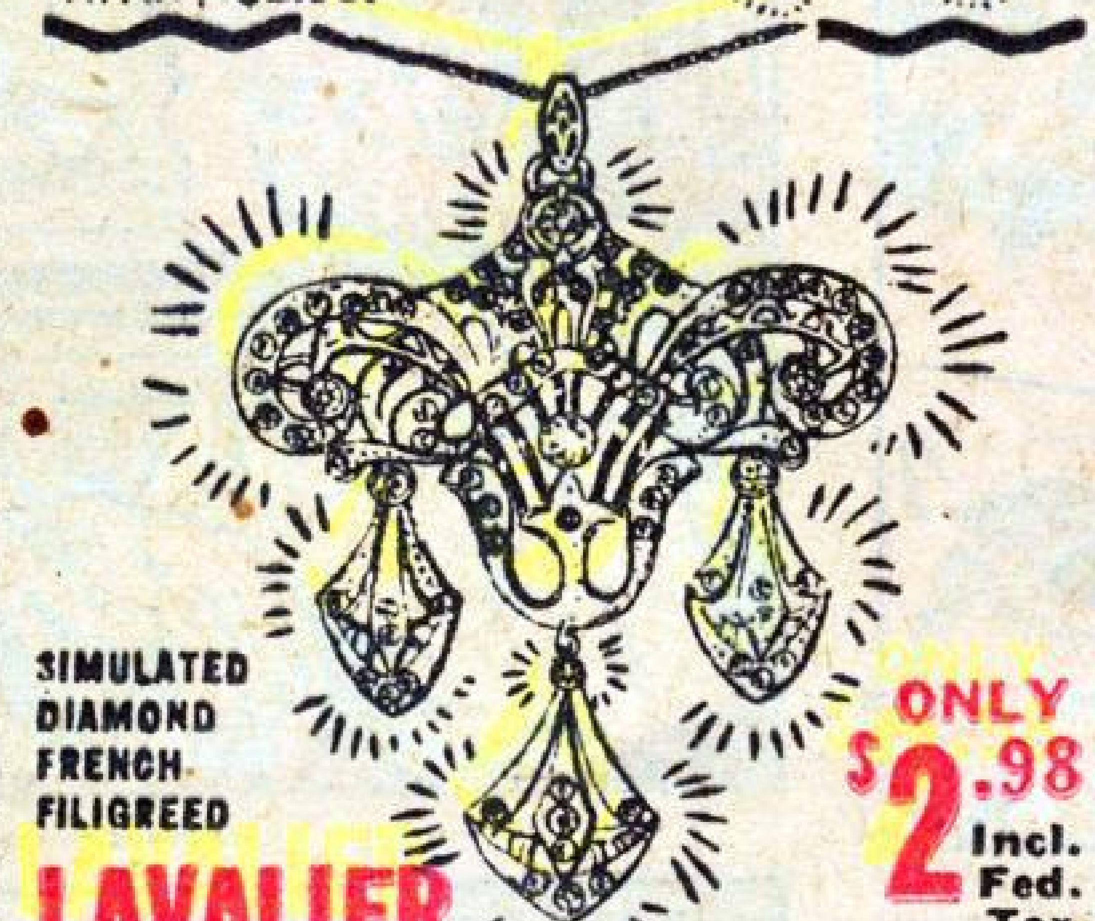

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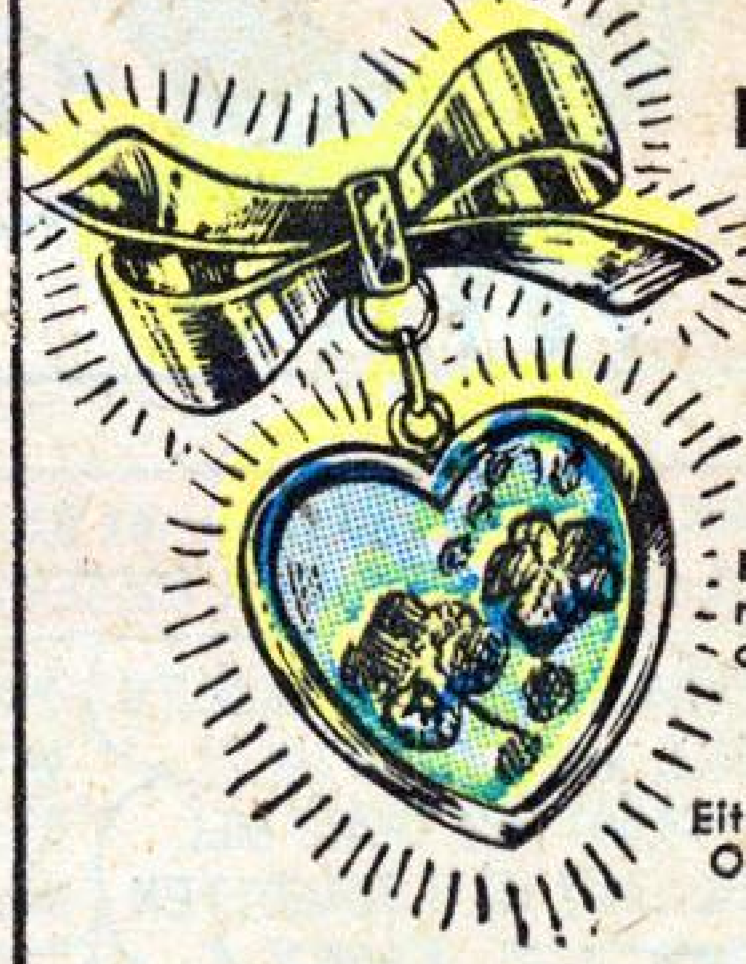

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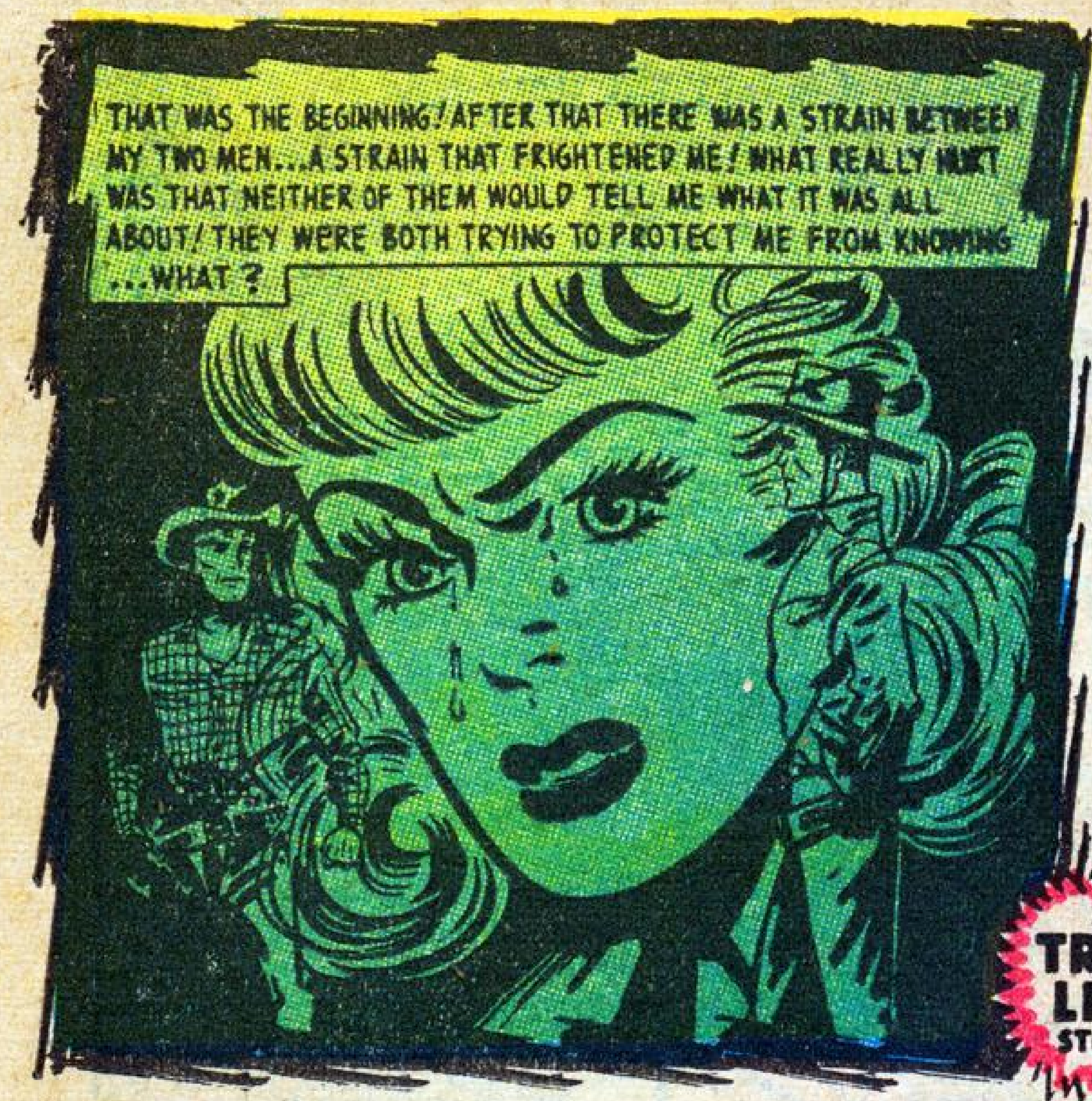
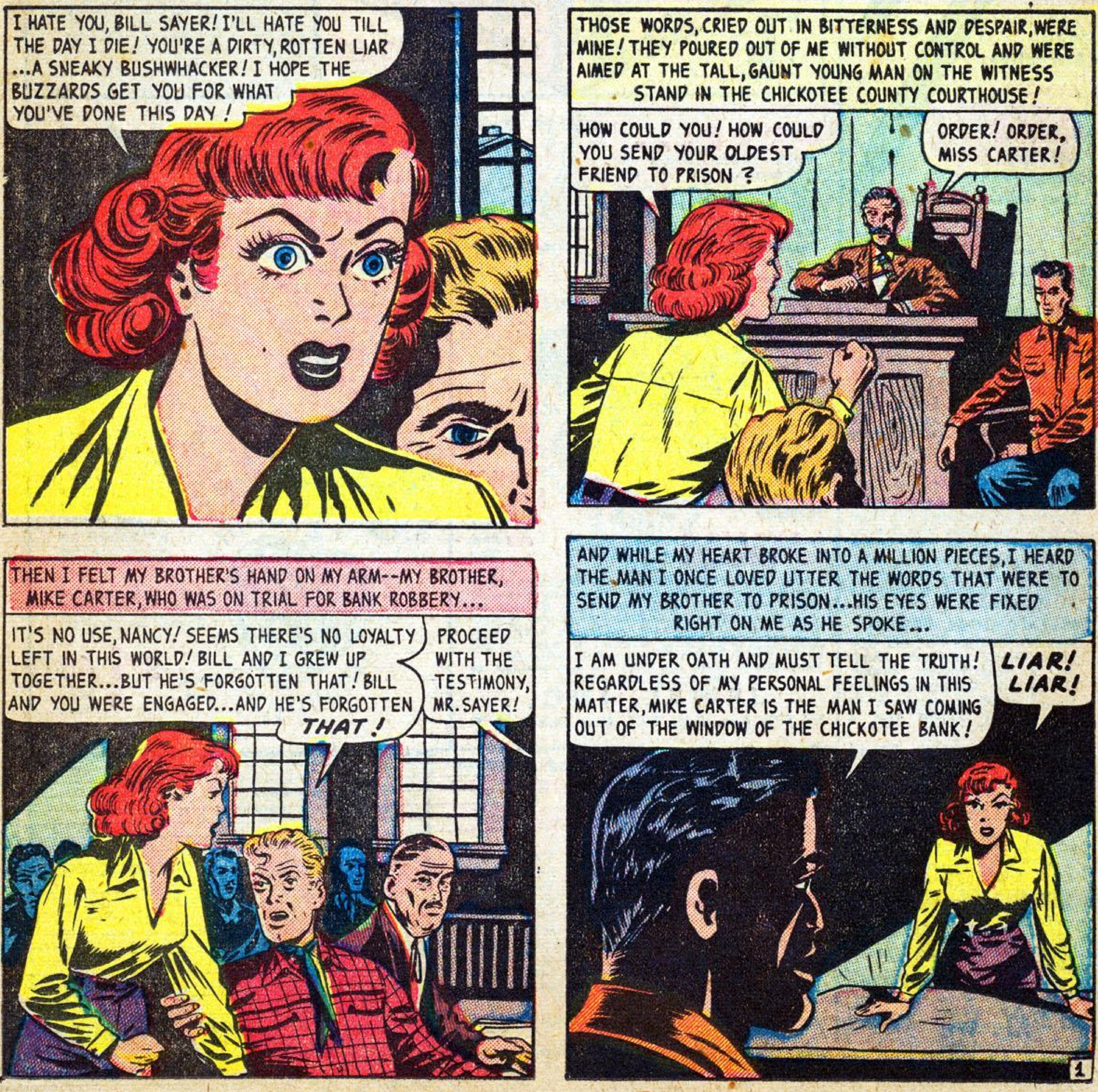

THAT WAS THE BEGINNING! AFTER THAT THERE WAS A STRAIN BETWEEN MY TWO MEN...A STRAIN THAT FRIGHTENED ME! WHAT REALLY HURT WAS THAT NEITHER OF THEM WOULD TELL ME WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT! THEY WERE BOTH TRYING TO PROTECT ME FROM KNOWING ...WHAT ?

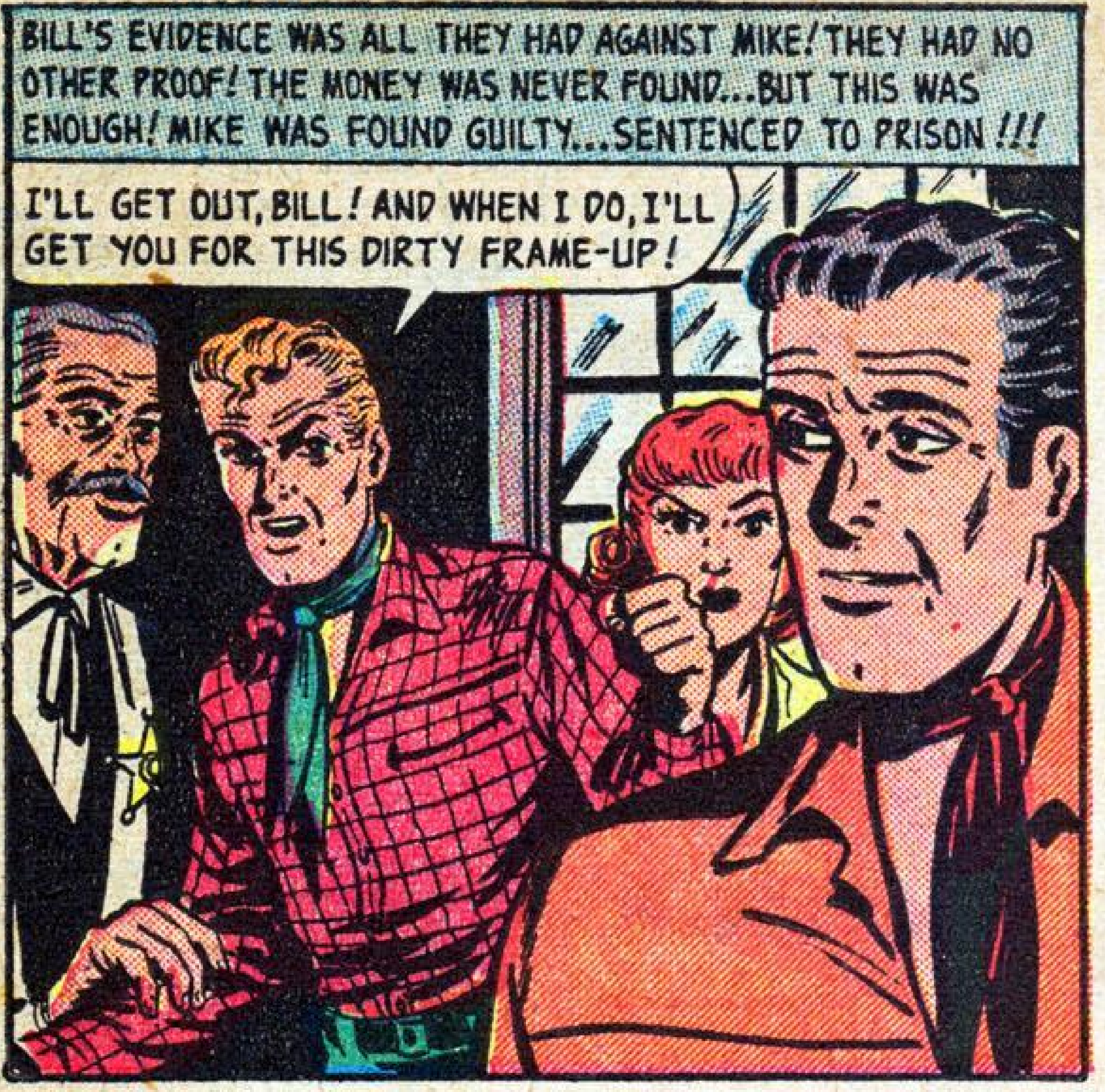
NO HATRED CAN BE AS STRONG AS THE HATRED THAT ONCE WAS LOVE! THAT WAS THE HATRED I FELT FOR BILL SAYER, THE MAN WHO PROMISED ME HAPPINESS, AND THEN CALMLY WRECKED MY LIFE!

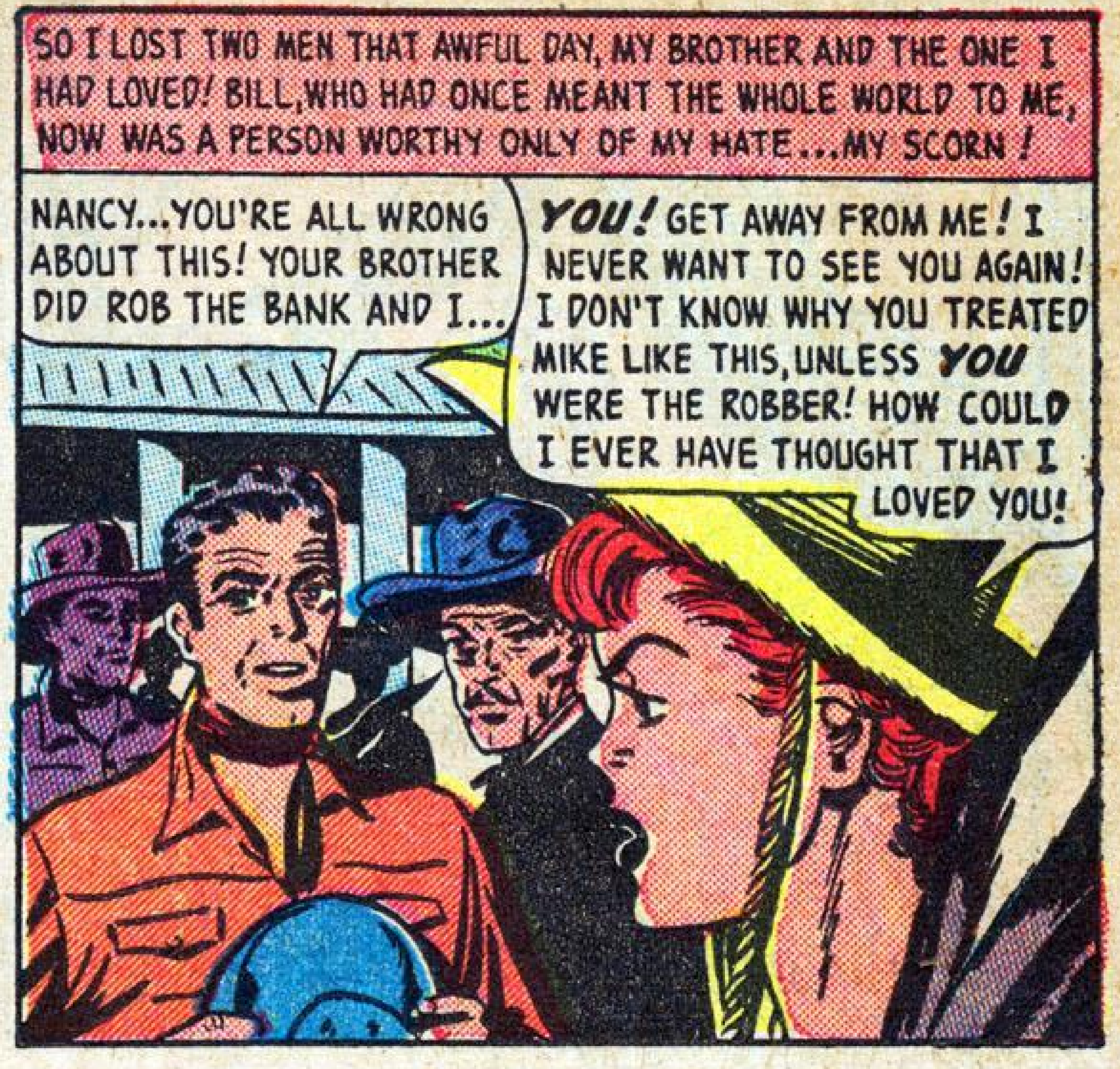
"HEART-BREAK AND HATE IN CHICKOTEE COUNTY!"

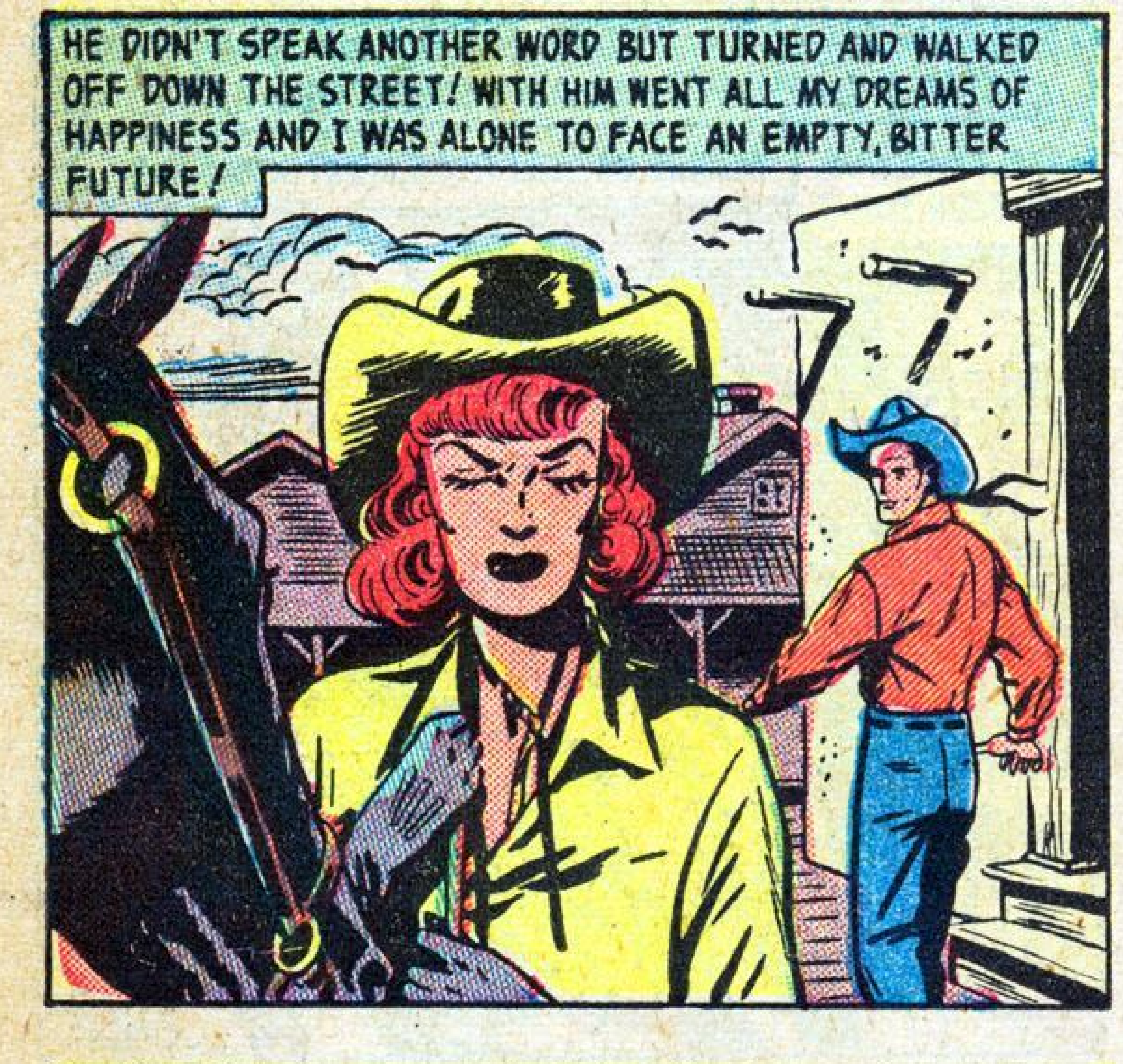
A TRUE LIFE STORY

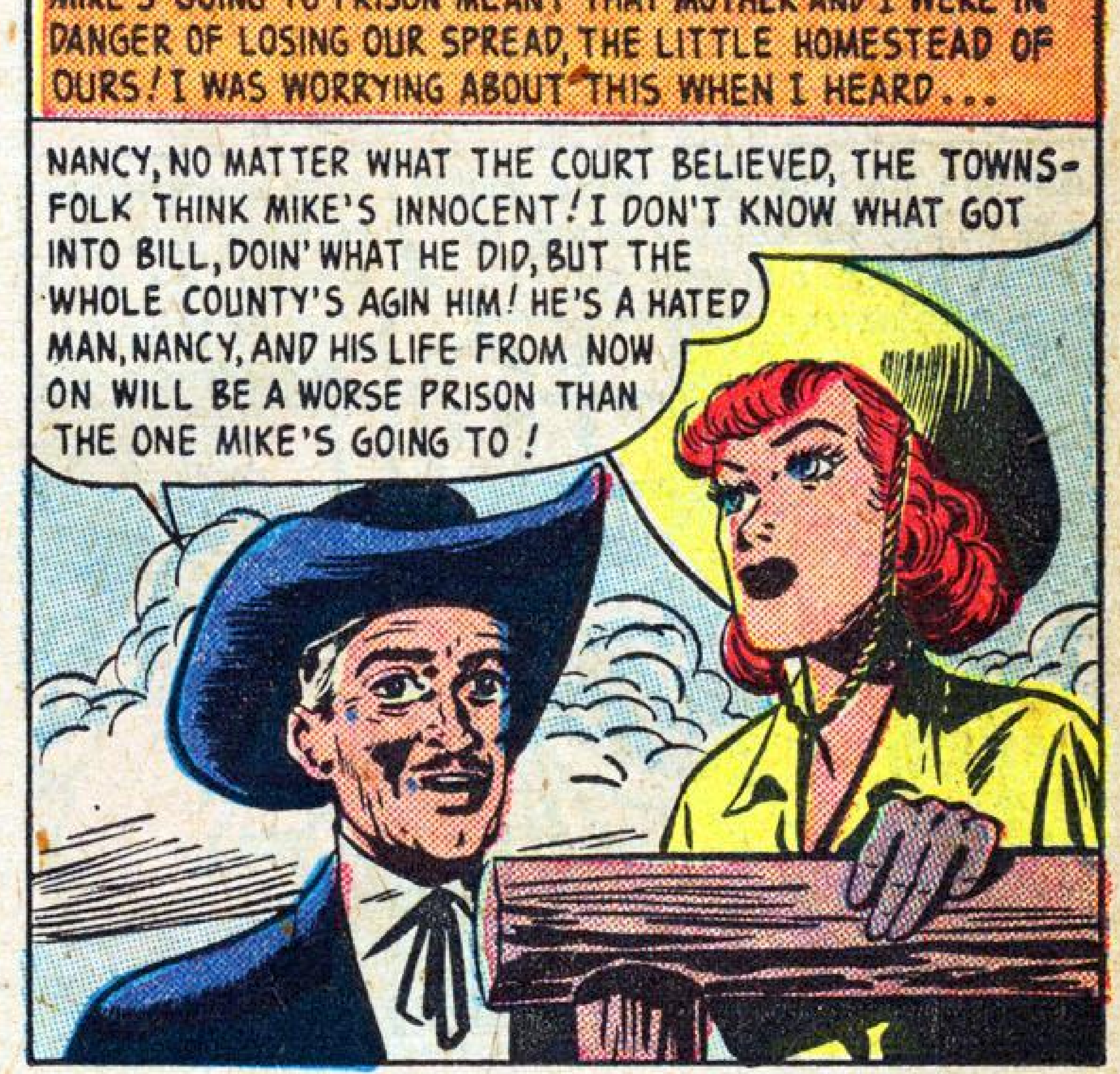
6134

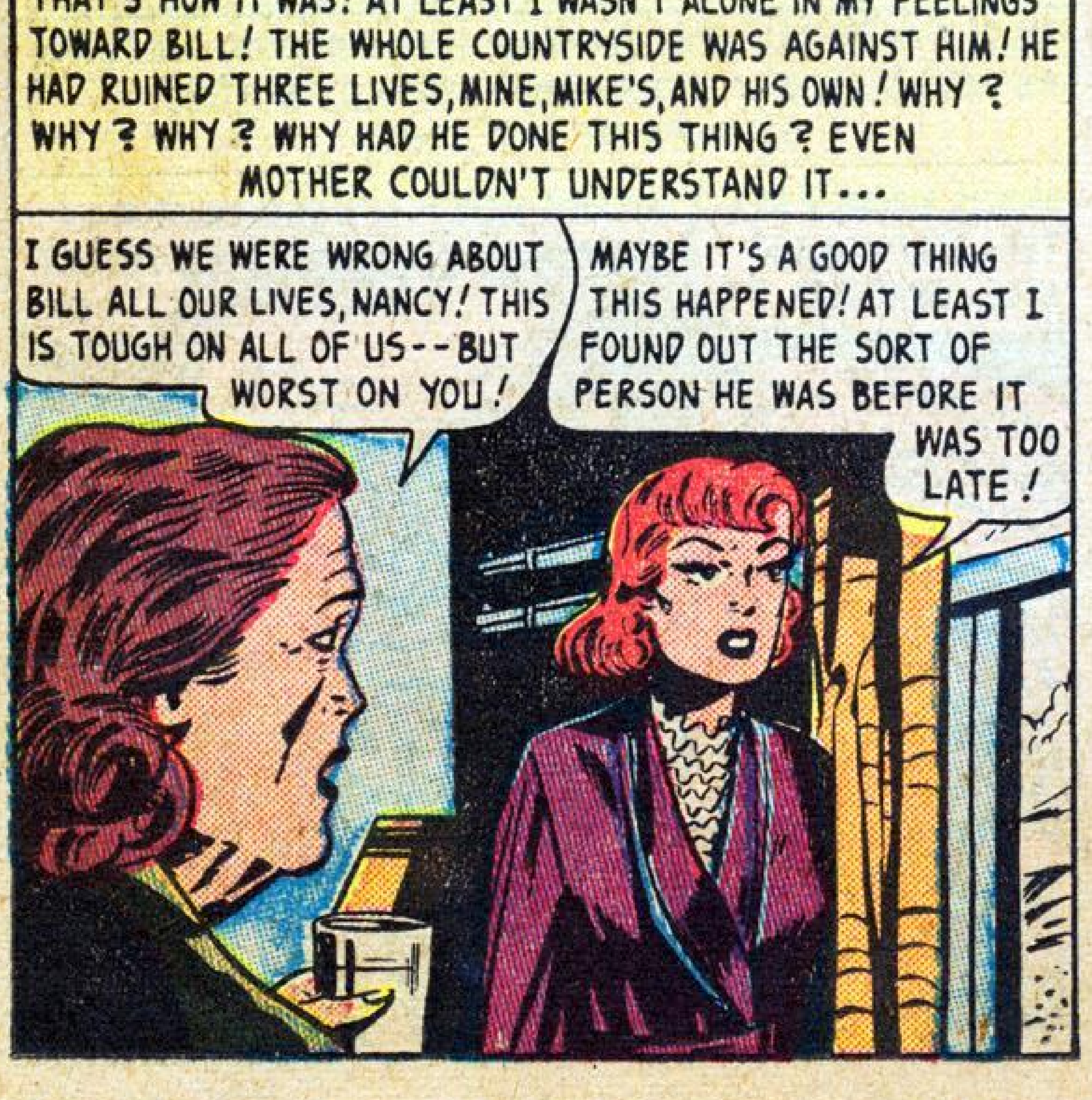

I HATE YOU, BILL SAYER! I'LL HATE YOU TILL THE DAY I DIE! YOU'RE A DIRTY, ROTTEN LIAR ...A SNEAKY BUSHWHACKER! I HOPE THE BUZZARDS GET YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE THIS DAY!
THOSE WORDS, CRIED OUT IN BITTERNESS AND DESPAIR, WERE MINE! THEY POURED OUT OF ME WITHOUT CONTROL AND WERE AIMED AT THE TALL, GAUNT YOUNG MAN ON THE WITNESS STAND IN THE CHICKOTEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE!
HOW COULD YOU! HOW COULD YOU SEND YOUR OLDEST FRIEND TO PRISON ?
ORDER! ORDER, MISS CARTER!
THEN I FELT MY BROTHER'S HAND ON MY ARM--MY BROTHER, MIKE CARTER, WHO WAS ON TRIAL FOR BANK ROBBERY...
IT'S NO USE, NANCY! SEEMS THERE'S NO LOYALTY LEFT IN THIS WORLD! BILL AND I GREW UP TOGETHER...BUT HE'S FORGOTTEN THAT! BILL AND YOU WERE ENGAGED...AND HE'S FORGOTTEN THAT!
PROCEED WITH THE TESTIMONY, MR. SAYER!
AND WHILE MY HEART BROKE INTO A MILLION PIECES, I HEARD THE MAN I ONCE LOVED UTTER THE WORDS THAT WERE TO SEND MY BROTHER TO PRISON...HIS EYES WERE FIXED RIGHT ON ME AS HE SPOKE...
I AM UNDER OATH AND MUST TELL THE TRUTH! REGARDLESS OF MY PERSONAL FEELINGS IN THIS MATTER, MIKE CARTER IS THE MAN I SAW COMING OUT OF THE WINDOW OF THE CHICKOTEE BANK!
LIAR! LIAR!
1

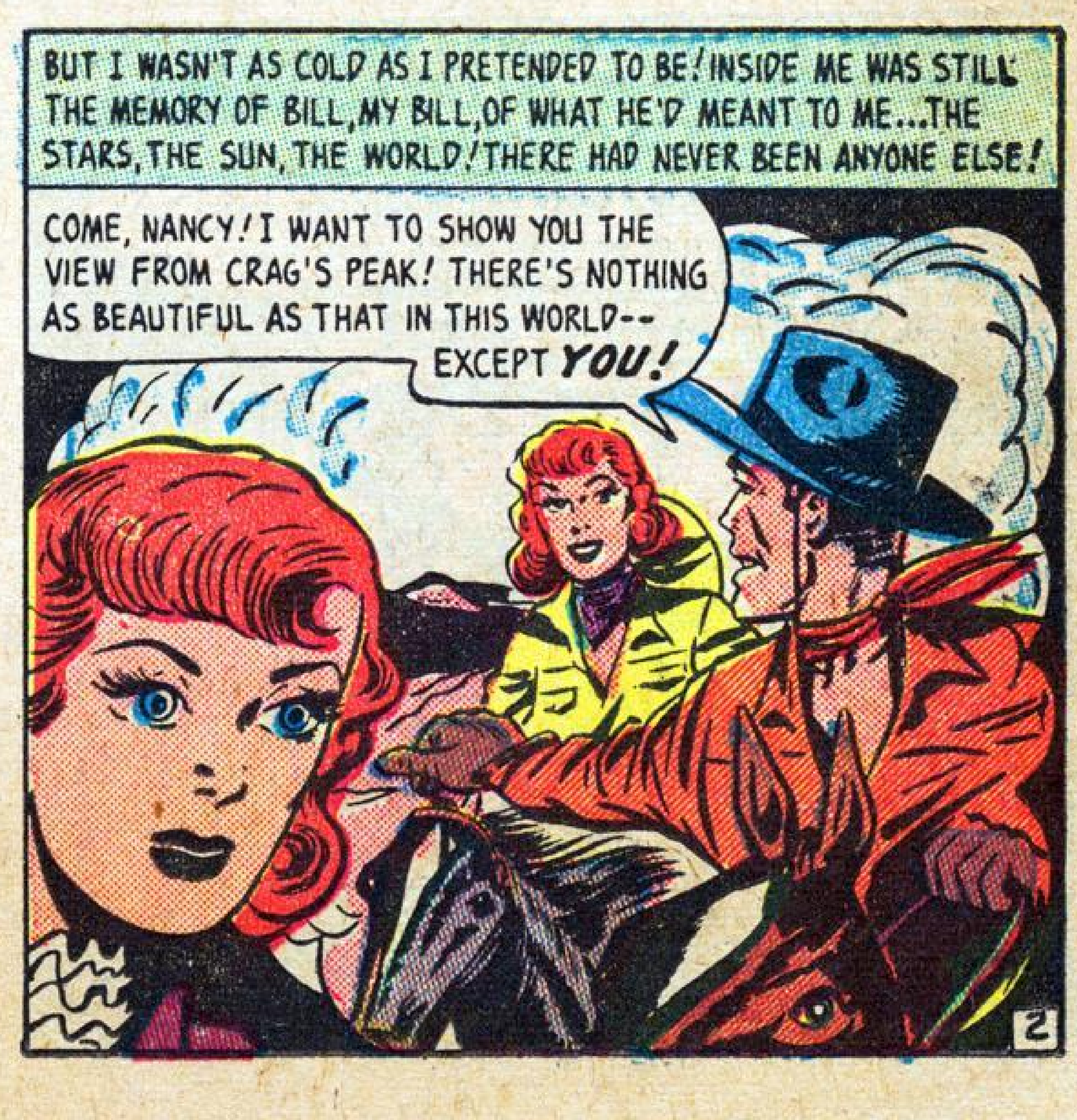

BILL'S EVIDENCE WAS ALL THEY HAD AGAINST MIKE! THEY HAD NO OTHER PROOF! THE MONEY WAS NEVER FOUND...BUT THIS WAS ENOUGH! MIKE WAS FOUND GUILTY...SENTENCED TO PRISON!!!
I'LL GET OUT, BILL! AND WHEN I DO, I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS DIRTY FRAME-UP!

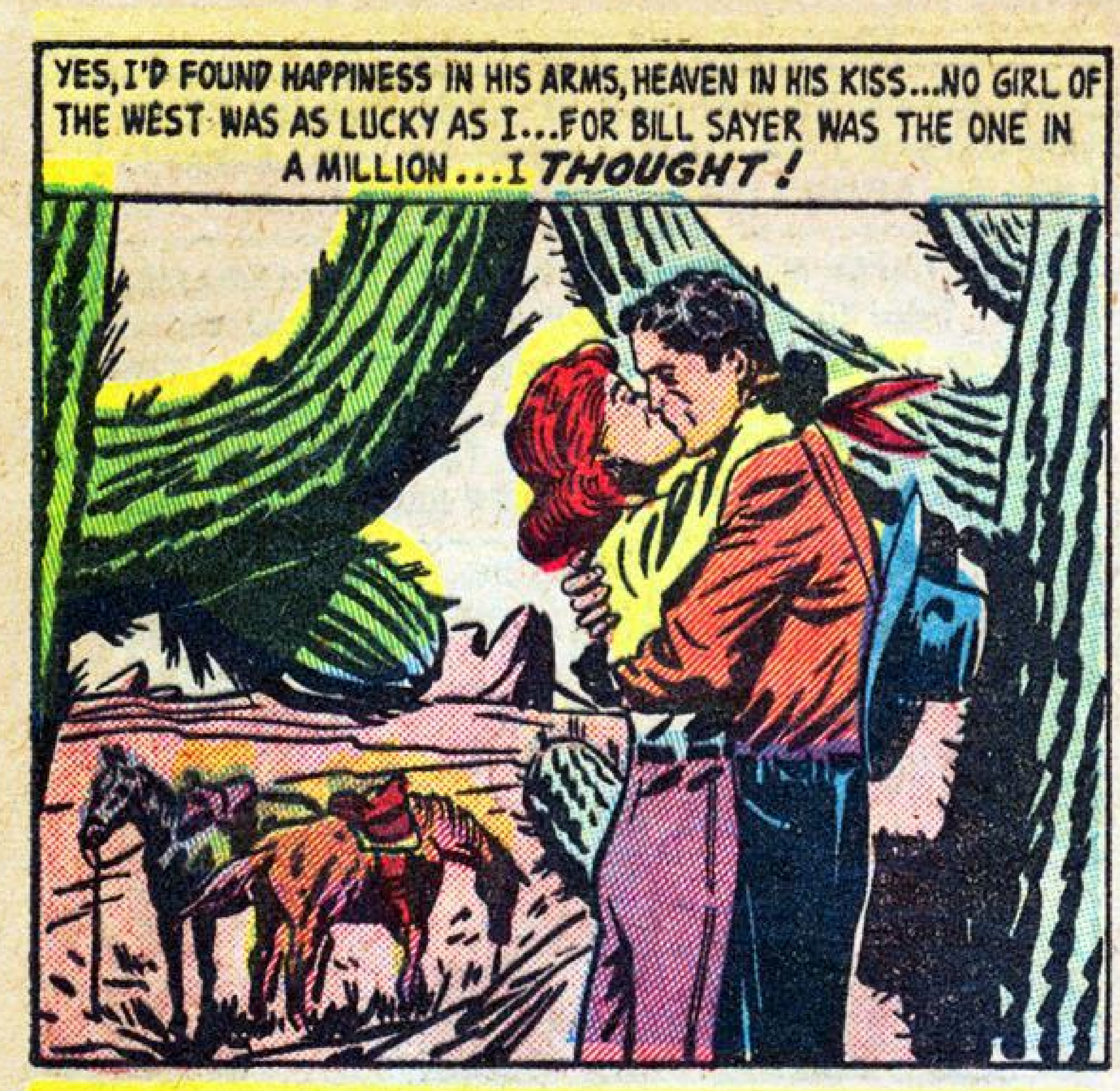

SO I LOST TWO MEN THAT AWFUL DAY, MY BROTHER AND THE ONE I HAD LOVED! BILL, WHO HAD ONCE MEANT THE WHOLE WORLD TO ME, NOW WAS A PERSON WORTHY ONLY OF MY HATE...MY SCORN!
NANCY...YOU'RE ALL WRONG ABOUT THIS! YOUR BROTHER DID ROB THE BANK AND I...
YOU! GET AWAY FROM ME! I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN! I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU TREATED MIKE LIKE THIS, UNLESS YOU WERE THE ROBBER! HOW COULD I EVER HAVE THOUGHT THAT I LOVED YOU!

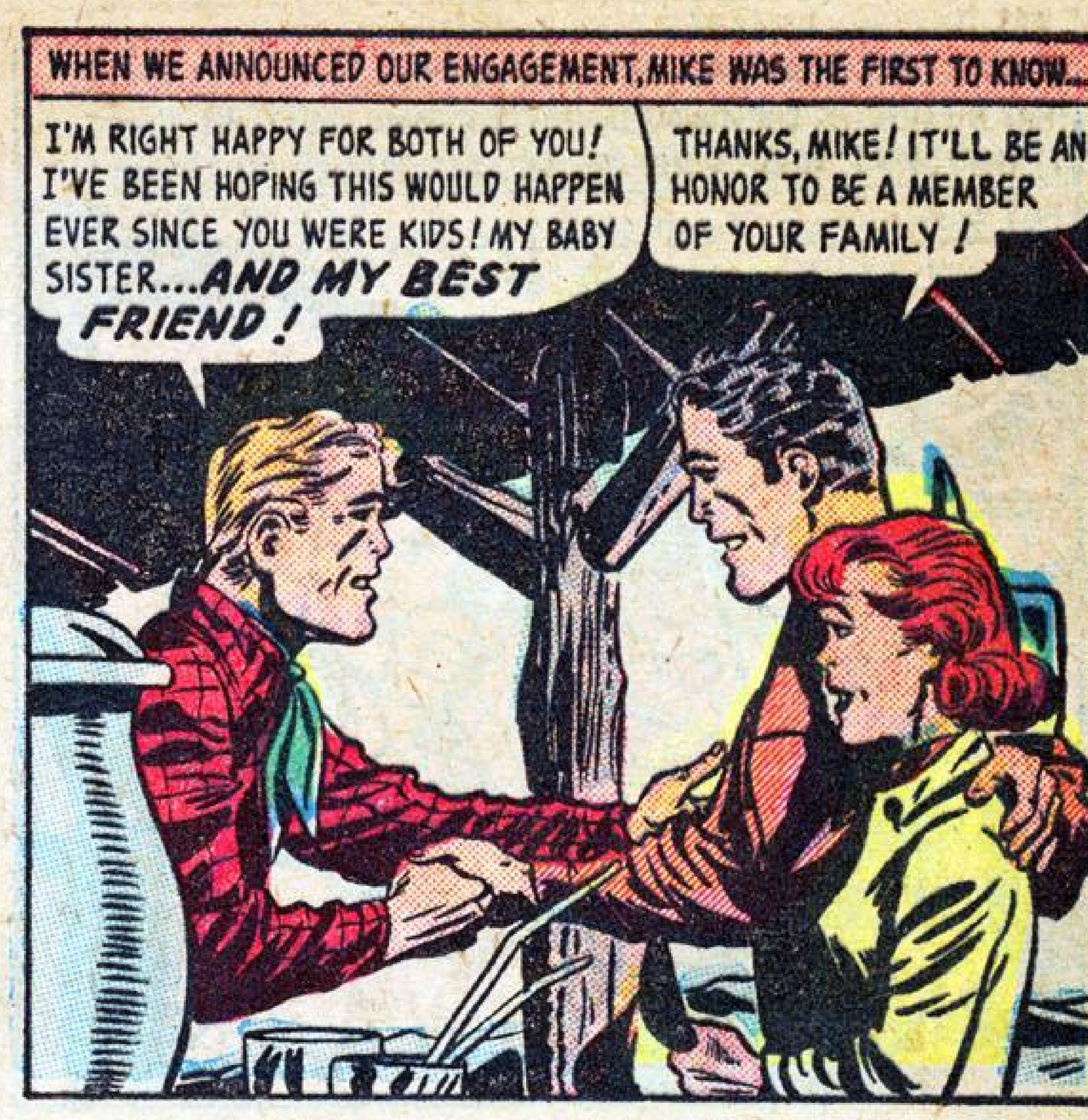

HE DIDN'T SPEAK ANOTHER WORD BUT TURNED AND WALKED OFF DOWN THE STREET! WITH HIM WENT ALL MY DREAMS OF HAPPINESS AND I WAS ALONE TO FACE AN EMPTY, BITTER FUTURE!

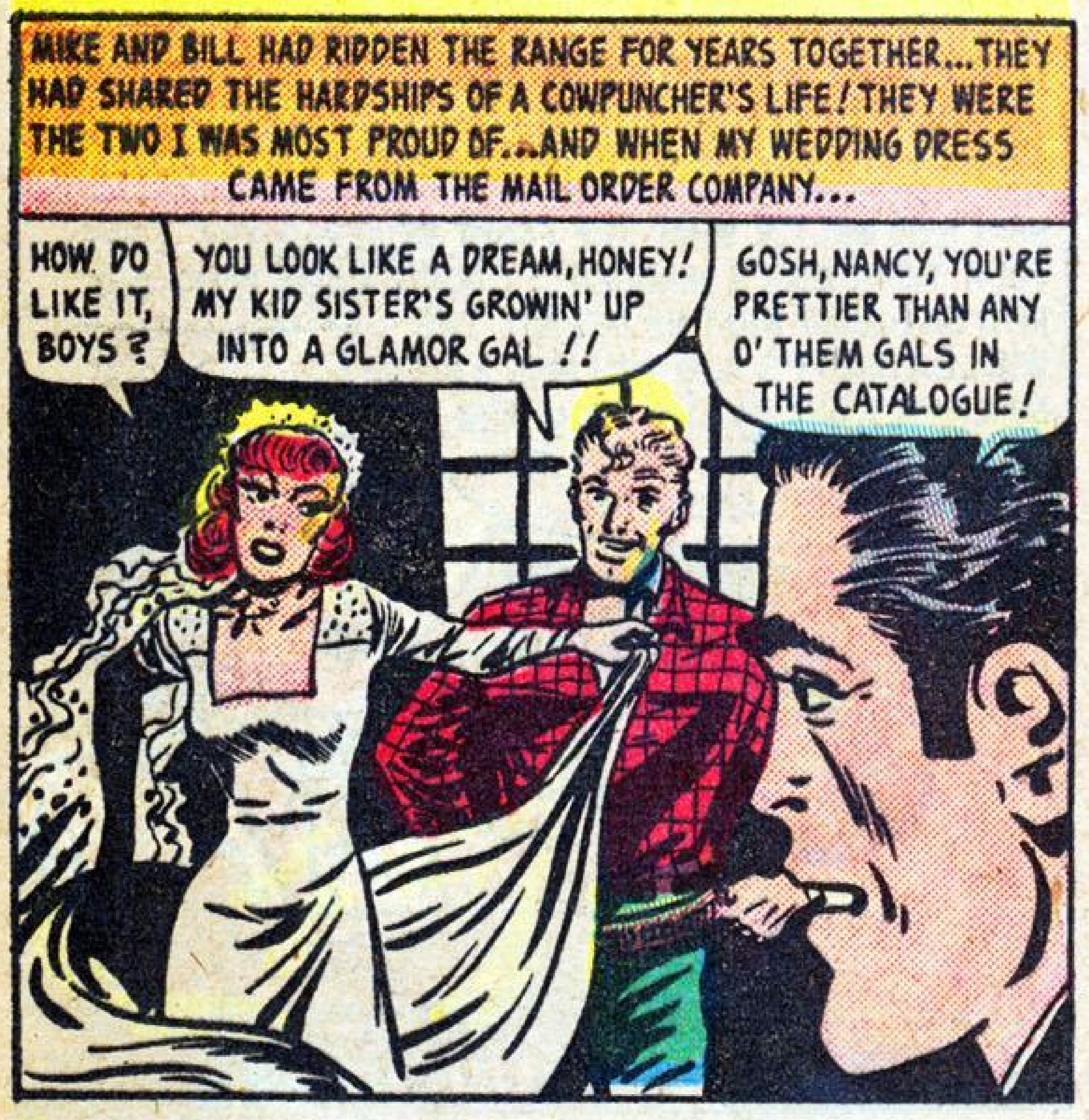

MIKE'S GOING TO PRISON MEANT THAT MOTHER AND I WERE IN DANGER OF LOSING OUR SPREAD, THE LITTLE HOMESTEAD OF OURS! I WAS WORRYING ABOUT THIS WHEN I HEARD...
NANCY, NO MATTER WHAT THE COURT BELIEVED, THE TOWNSFOLK THINK MIKE'S INNOCENT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOT INTO BILL, DOIN' WHAT HE DID, BUT THE WHOLE COUNTY'S AGIN HIM! HE'S A HATED MAN, NANCY, AND HIS LIFE FROM NOW ON WILL BE A WORSE PRISON THAN THE ONE MIKE'S GOING TO!

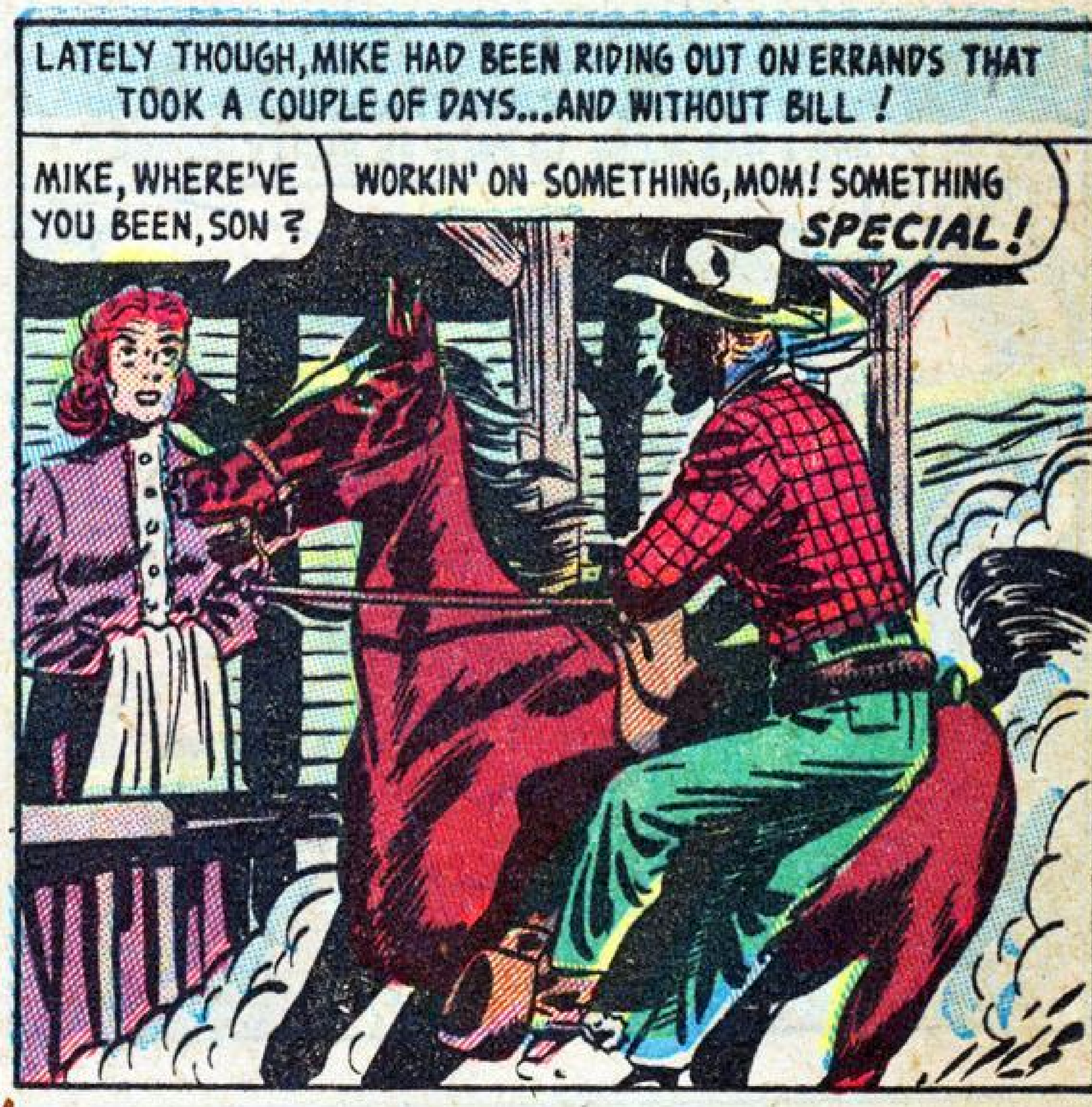

THAT'S HOW IT WAS! AT LEAST I WASN'T ALONE IN MY FEELINGS TOWARD BILL! THE WHOLE COUNTRYSIDE WAS AGAINST HIM! HE HAD RUINED THREE LIVES, MINE, MIKE'S, AND HIS OWN! WHY? WHY? WHY? WHY HAD HE DONE THIS THING? EVEN MOTHER COULDN'T UNDERSTAND IT...
I GUESS WE WERE WRONG ABOUT BILL ALL OUR LIVES, NANCY! THIS IS TOUGH ON ALL OF US--BUT WORST ON YOU!
MAYBE IT'S A GOOD THING THIS HAPPENED! AT LEAST I FOUND OUT THE SORT OF PERSON HE WAS BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE!

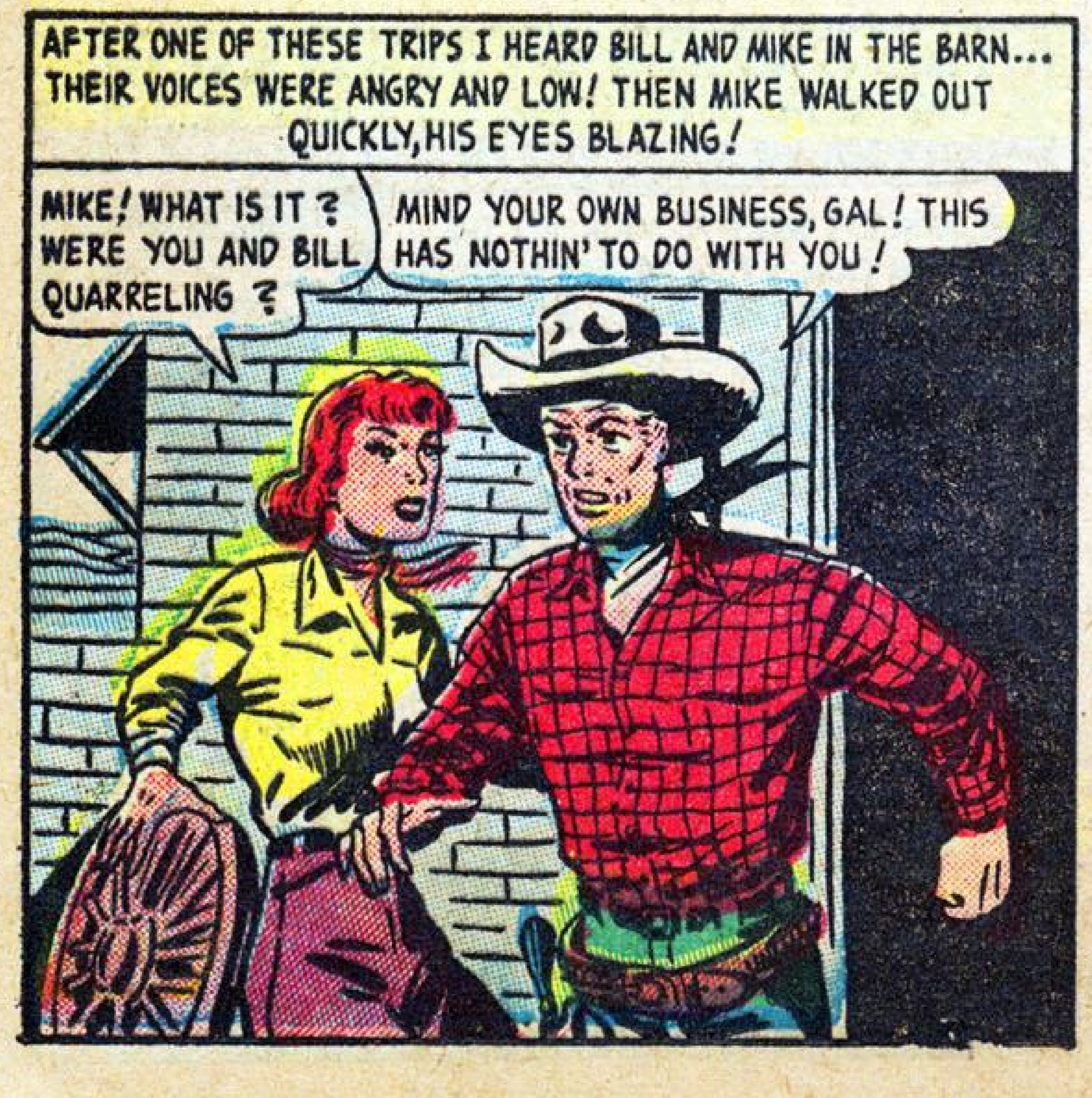

BUT I WASN'T AS COLD AS I PRETENDED TO BE! INSIDE ME WAS STILL THE MEMORY OF BILL, MY BILL, OF WHAT HE'D MEANT TO ME...THE STARS, THE SUN, THE WORLD! THERE HAD NEVER BEEN ANYONE ELSE!
COME, NANCY! I WANT TO SHOW YOU THE VIEW FROM CRAG'S PEAK! THERE'S NOTHING AS BEAUTIFUL AS THAT IN THIS WORLD-- EXCEPT YOU!
2

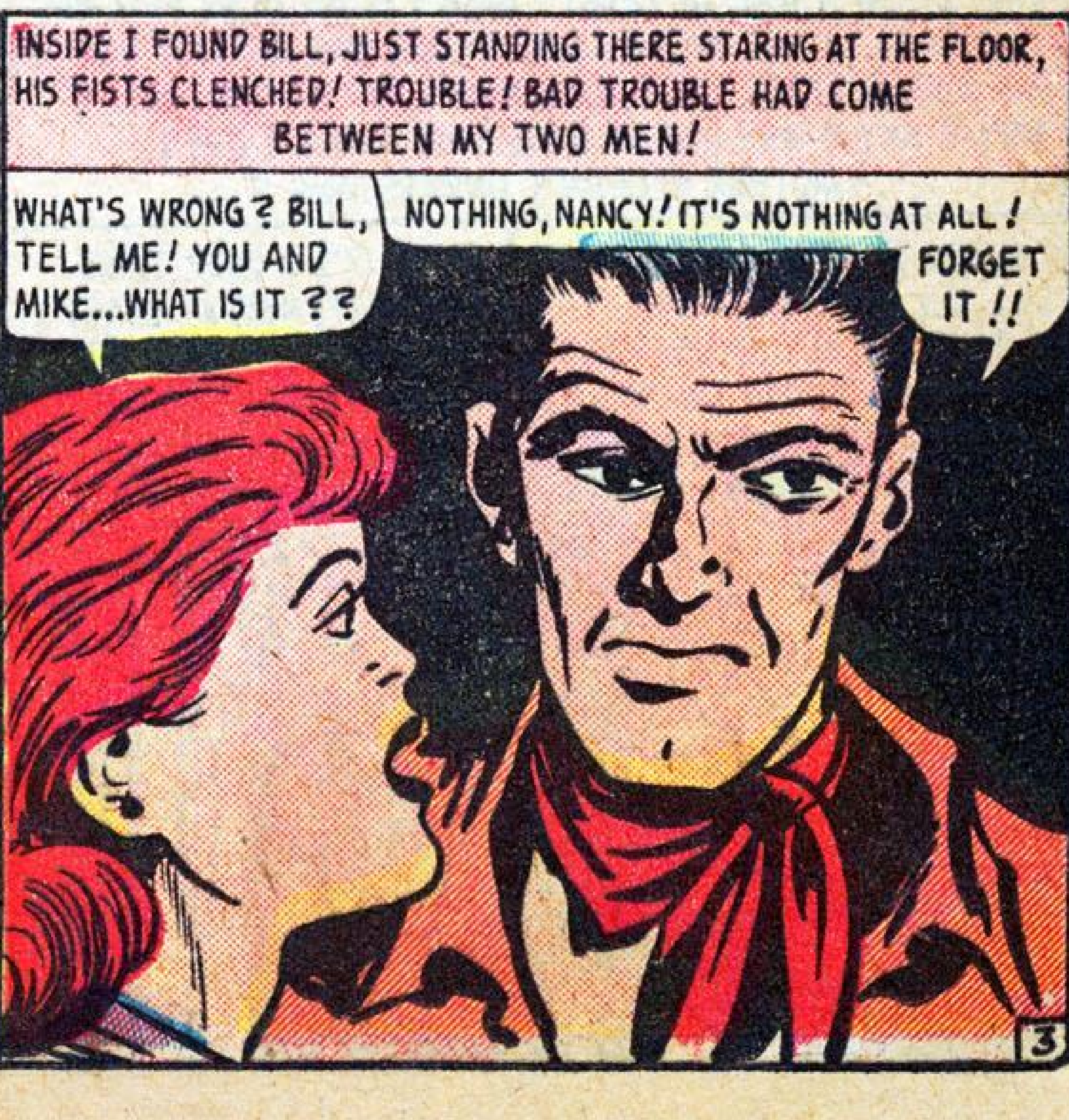

YES, I'D FOUND HAPPINESS IN HIS ARMS, HEAVEN IN HIS KISS...NO GIRL OF THE WEST WAS AS LUCKY AS I...FOR BILL SAYER WAS THE ONE IN A MILLION...I **THOUGHT!**

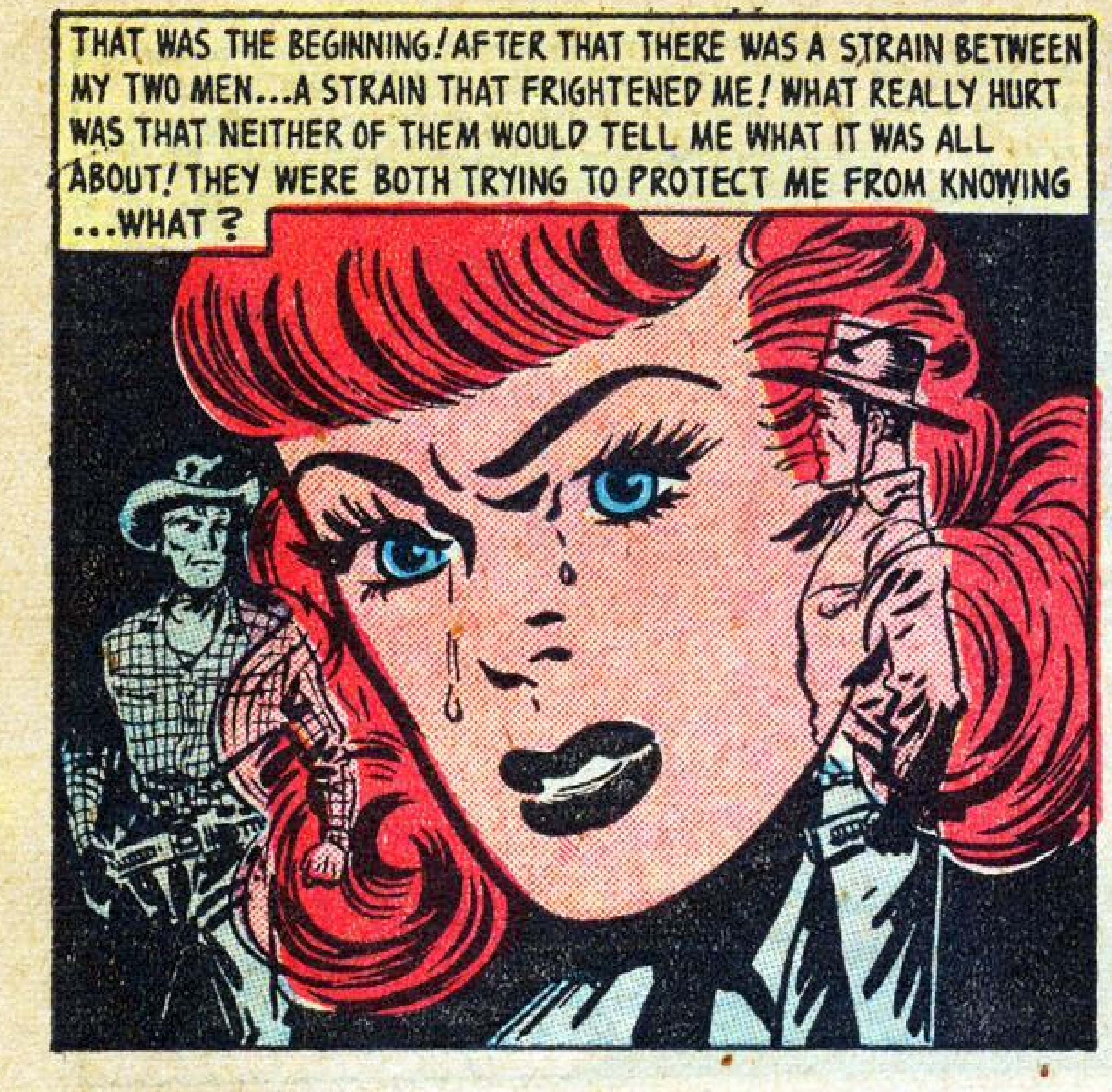

WHEN WE ANNOUNCED OUR ENGAGEMENT, MIKE WAS THE FIRST TO KNOW...
I'M RIGHT HAPPY FOR BOTH OF YOU! I'VE BEEN HOPING THIS WOULD HAPPEN EVER SINCE YOU WERE KIDS! MY BABY SISTER...**AND MY BEST FRIEND!**
THANKS, MIKE! IT'LL BE AN HONOR TO BE A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY!

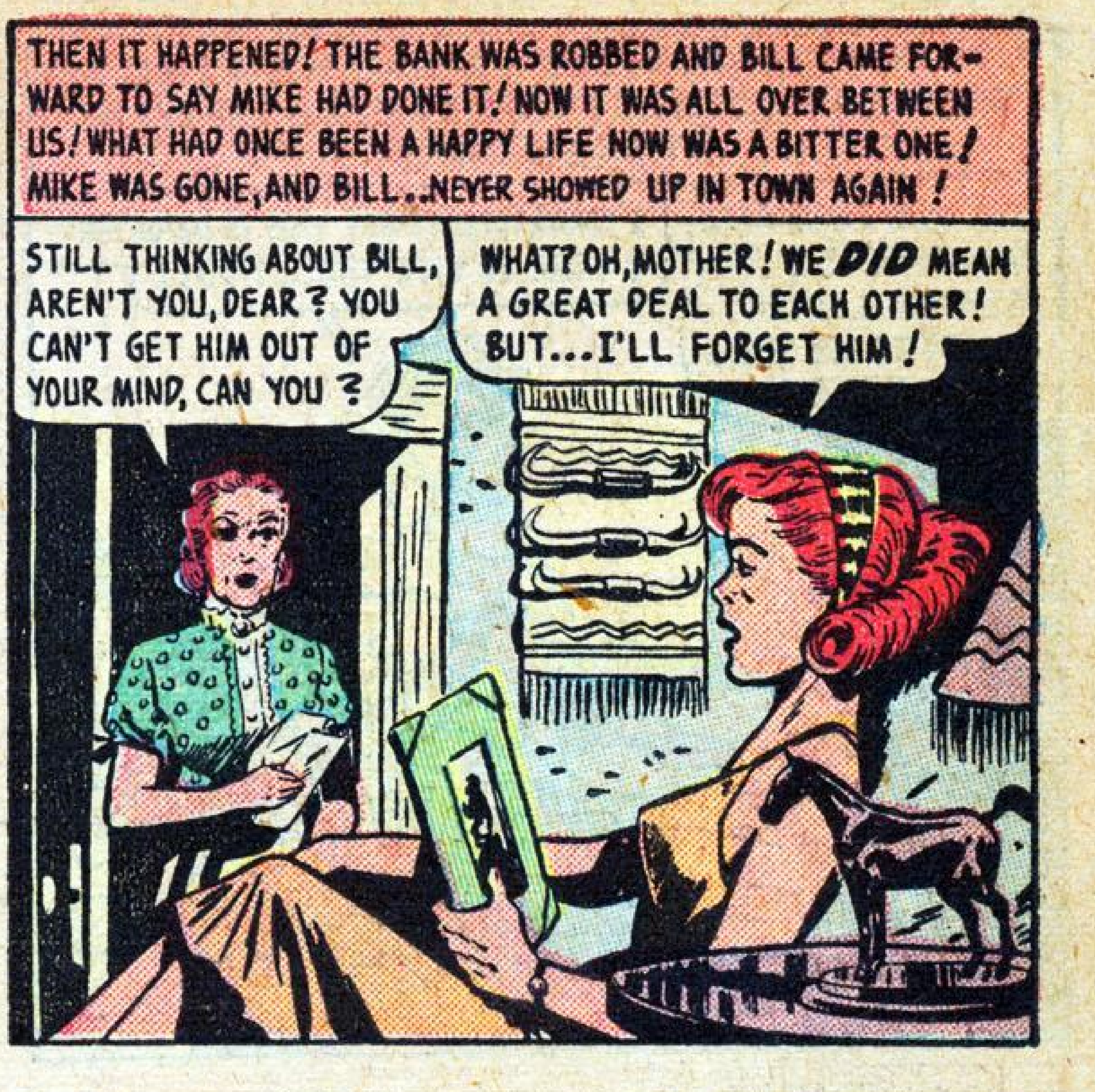

MIKE AND BILL HAD RIDDEN THE RANGE FOR YEARS TOGETHER...THEY HAD SHARED THE HARDSHIPS OF A COWPUNCHER'S LIFE! THEY WERE THE TWO I WAS MOST PROUD OF...AND WHEN MY WEDDING DRESS CAME FROM THE MAIL ORDER COMPANY...
HOW DO LIKE IT, BOYS?
YOU LOOK LIKE A DREAM, HONEY! MY KID SISTER'S GROWIN' UP INTO A GLAMOR GAL!!
GOSH, NANCY, YOU'RE PRETTIER THAN ANY O' THEM GALS IN THE CATALOGUE!

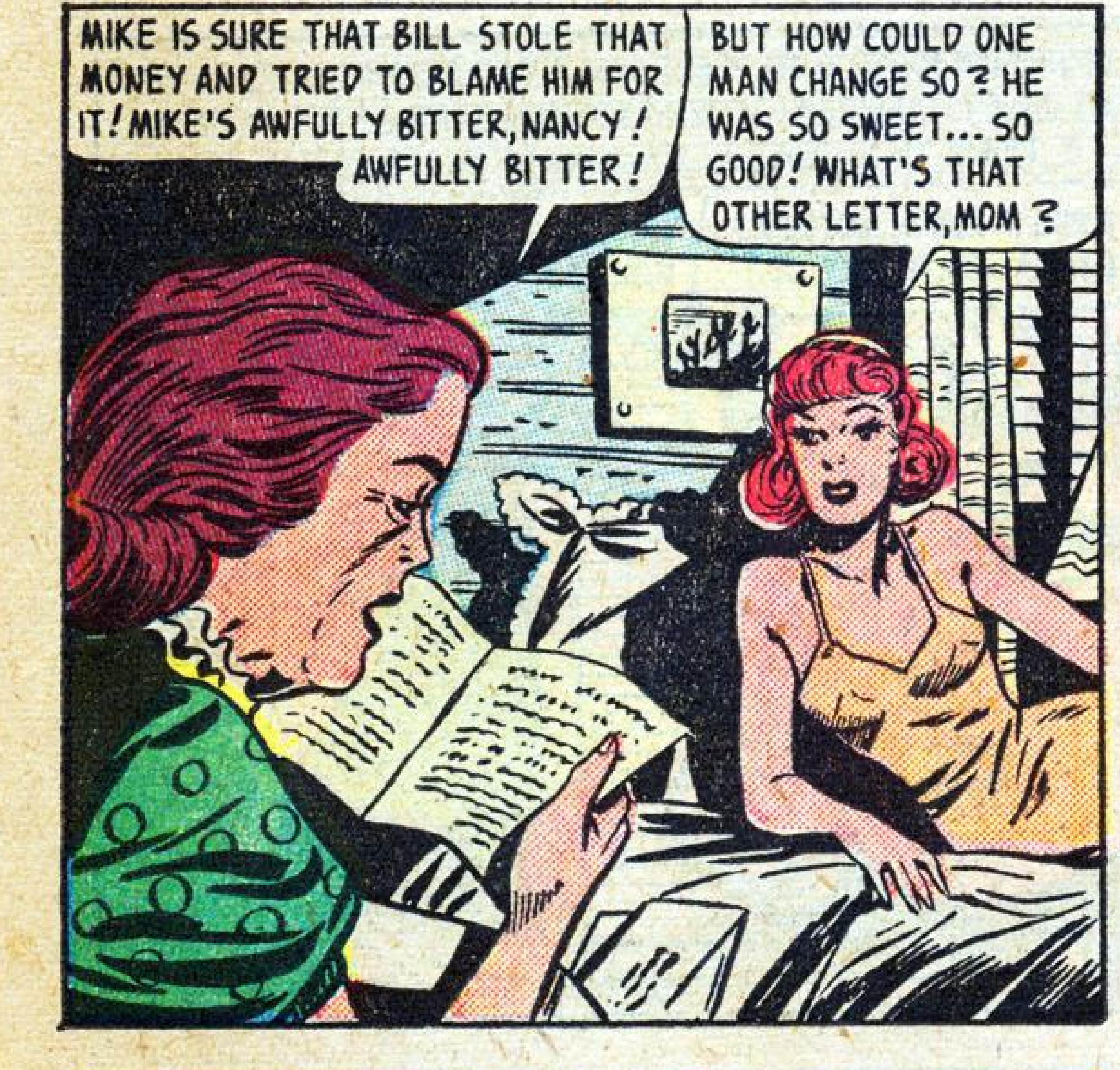

LATELY THOUGH, MIKE HAD BEEN RIDING OUT ON ERRANDS THAT TOOK A COUPLE OF DAYS...AND WITHOUT BILL!
MIKE, WHERE'VE YOU BEEN, SON?
WORKIN' ON SOMETHING, MOM! SOMETHING **SPECIAL!**

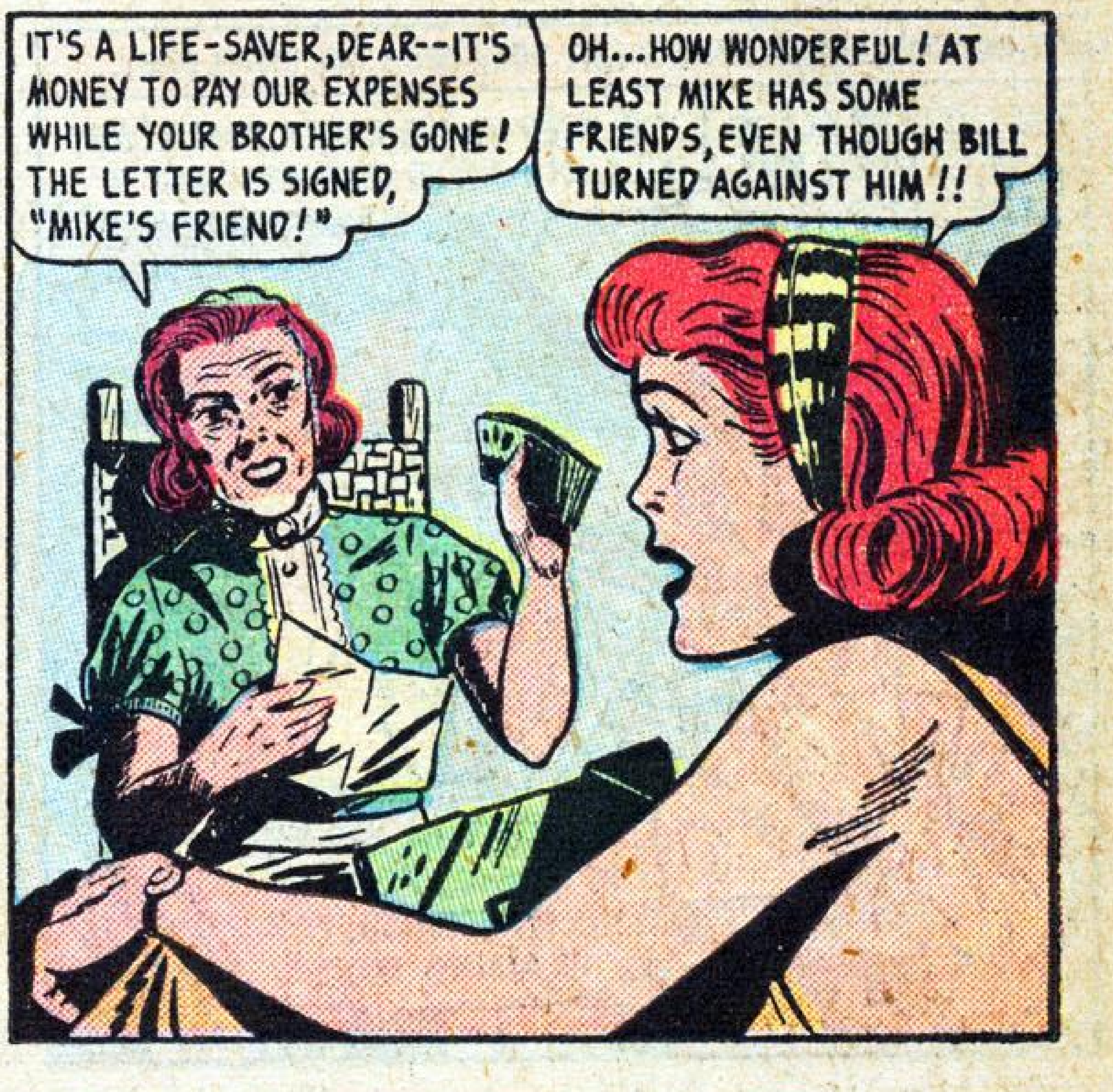

AFTER ONE OF THESE TRIPS I HEARD BILL AND MIKE IN THE BARN... THEIR VOICES WERE ANGRY AND LOW! THEN MIKE WALKED OUT QUICKLY, HIS EYES BLAZING!
MIKE! WHAT IS IT? WERE YOU AND BILL QUARRELING?
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, GAL! THIS HAS NOTHIN' TO DO WITH YOU!

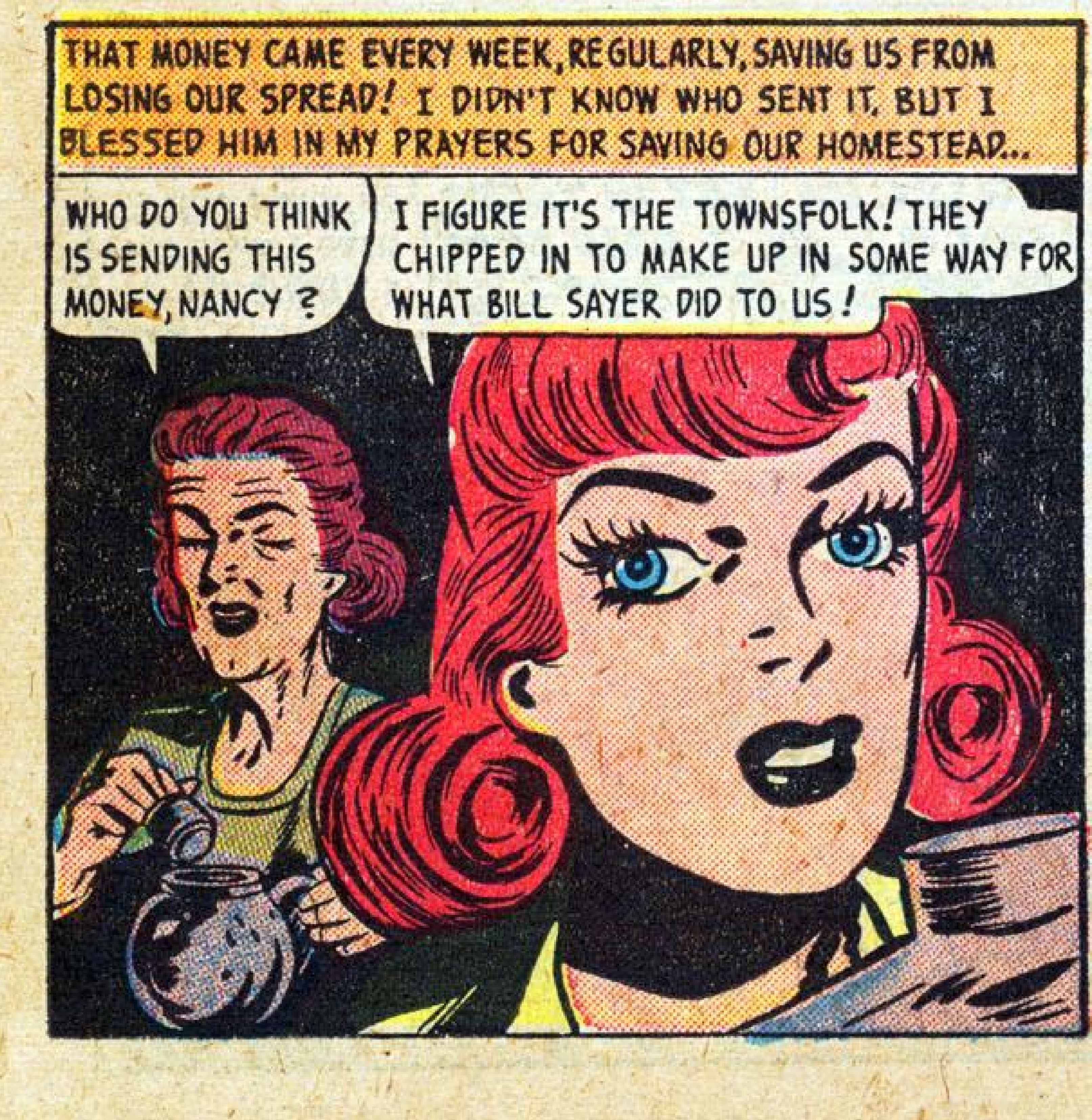

INSIDE I FOUND BILL, JUST STANDING THERE STARING AT THE FLOOR, HIS FISTS CLENCHED! TROUBLE! BAD TROUBLE HAD COME BETWEEN MY TWO MEN!
WHAT'S WRONG? BILL, TELL ME! YOU AND MIKE...WHAT IS IT??
NOTHING, NANCY! IT'S NOTHING AT ALL! FORGET IT!!

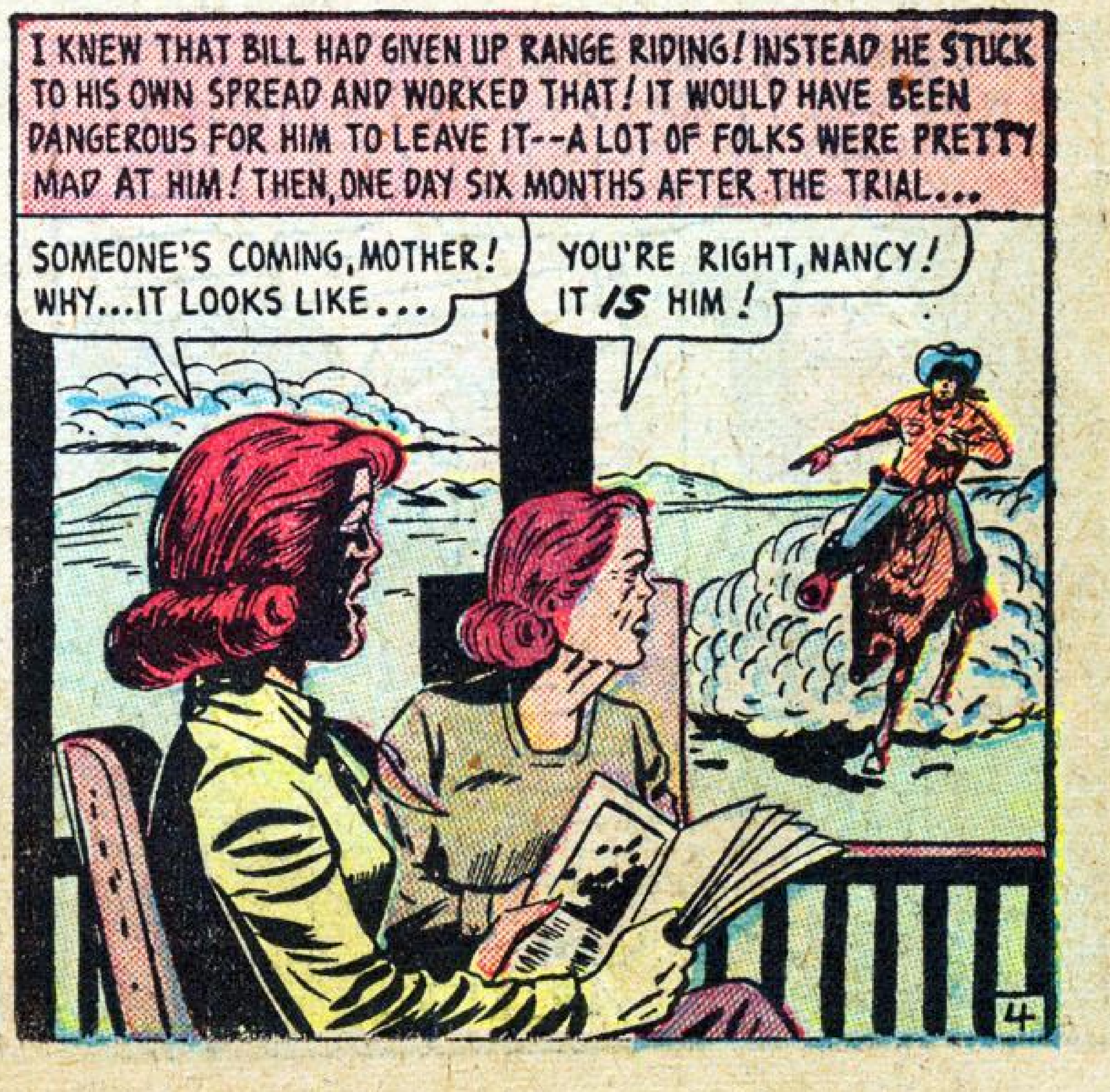

THAT WAS THE BEGINNING! AFTER THAT THERE WAS A STRAIN BETWEEN MY TWO MEN...A STRAIN THAT FRIGHTENED ME! WHAT REALLY HURT WAS THAT NEITHER OF THEM WOULD TELL ME WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT! THEY WERE BOTH TRYING TO PROTECT ME FROM KNOWING ...WHAT?

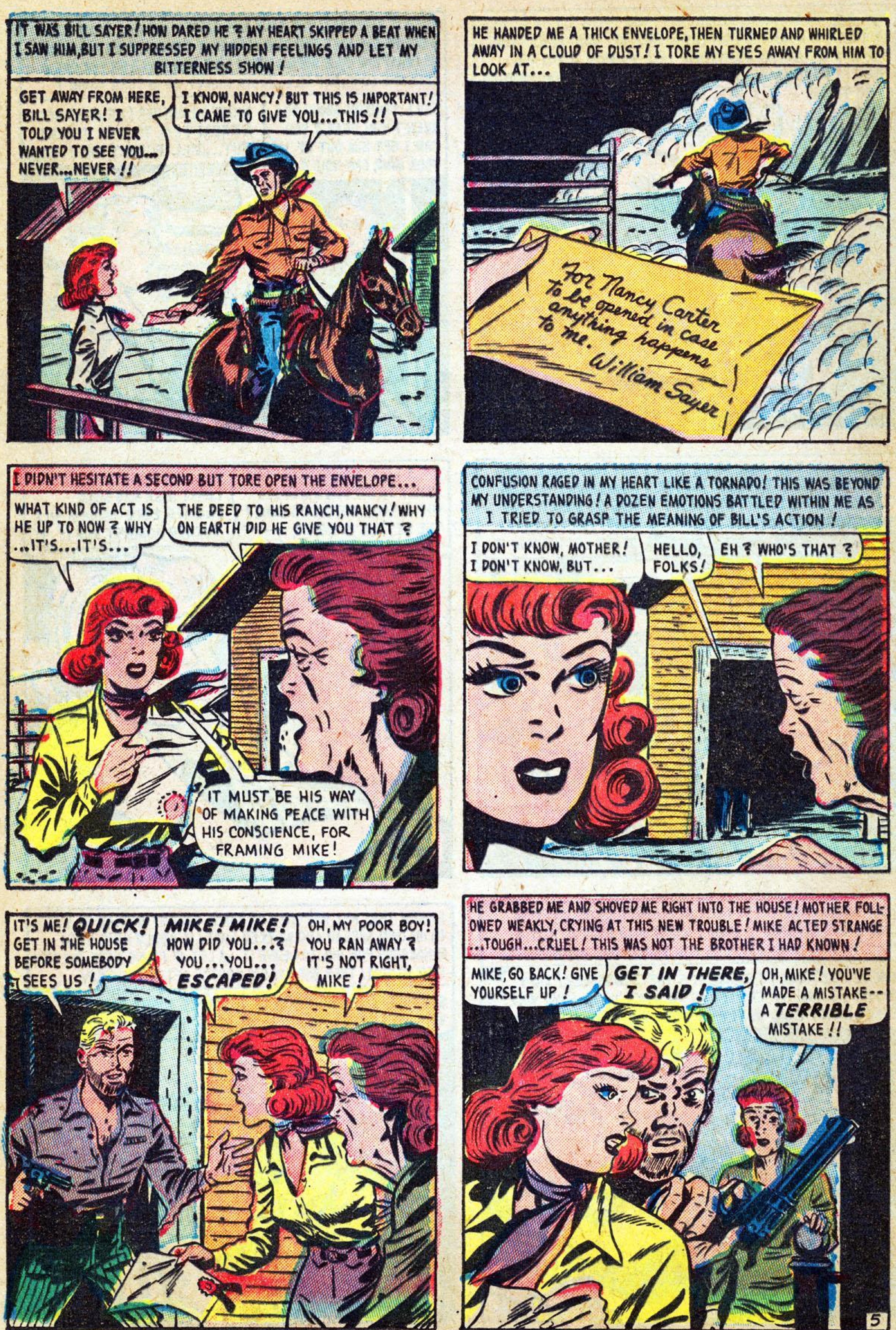

THEN IT HAPPENED! THE BANK WAS ROBBED AND BILL CAME FORWARD TO SAY MIKE HAD DONE IT! NOW IT WAS ALL OVER BETWEEN US! WHAT HAD ONCE BEEN A HAPPY LIFE NOW WAS A BITTER ONE! MIKE WAS GONE, AND BILL..NEVER SHOWED UP IN TOWN AGAIN!
STILL THINKING ABOUT BILL, AREN'T YOU, DEAR? YOU CAN'T GET HIM OUT OF YOUR MIND, CAN YOU?
WHAT? OH, MOTHER! WE *DID* MEAN A GREAT DEAL TO EACH OTHER! BUT...I'LL FORGET HIM!

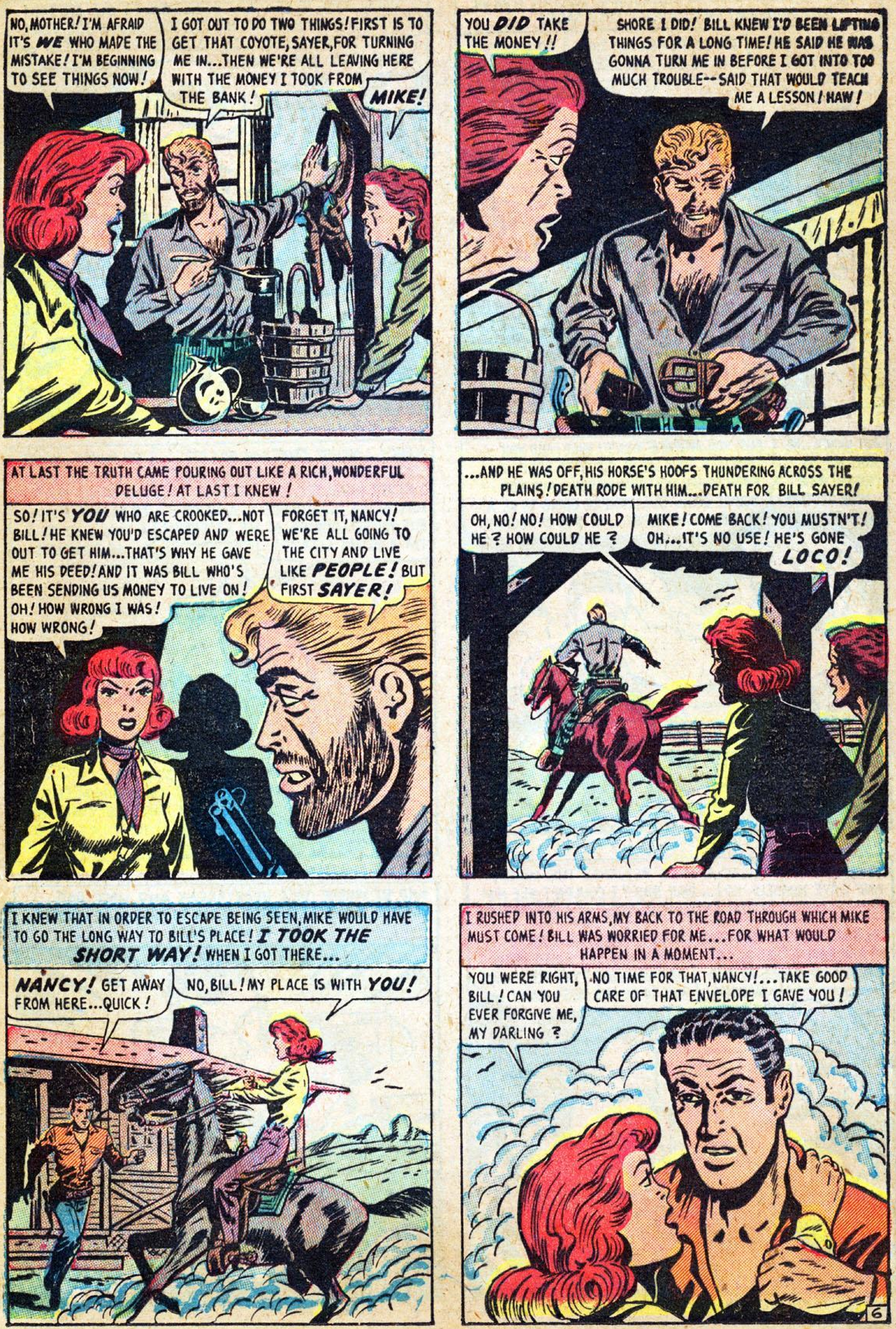

MIKE IS SURE THAT BILL STOLE THAT MONEY AND TRIED TO BLAME HIM FOR IT! MIKE'S AWFULLY BITTER, NANCY! AWFULLY BITTER!
BUT HOW COULD ONE MAN CHANGE SO? HE WAS SO SWEET... SO GOOD! WHAT'S THAT OTHER LETTER, MOM?

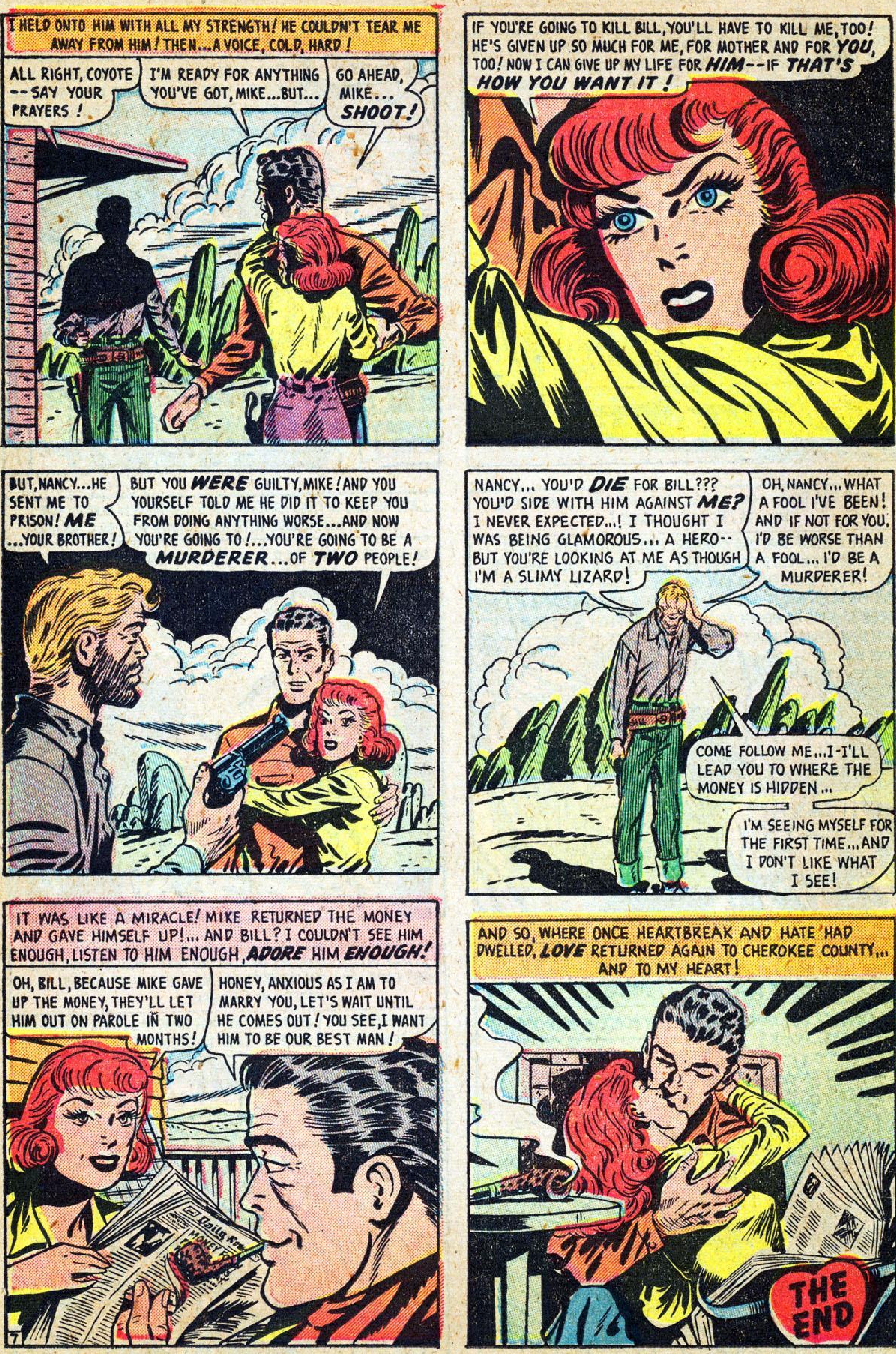

IT'S A LIFE-SAVER, DEAR--IT'S MONEY TO PAY OUR EXPENSES WHILE YOUR BROTHER'S GONE! THE LETTER IS SIGNED, "MIKE'S FRIEND!"
OH...HOW WONDERFUL! AT LEAST MIKE HAS SOME FRIENDS, EVEN THOUGH BILL TURNED AGAINST HIM!!


THAT MONEY CAME EVERY WEEK, REGULARLY, SAVING US FROM LOSING OUR SPREAD! I DIDN'T KNOW WHO SENT IT, BUT I BLESSED HIM IN MY PRAYERS FOR SAVING OUR HOMESTEAD...
WHO DO YOU THINK IS SENDING THIS MONEY, NANCY?
I FIGURE IT'S THE TOWNSFOLK! THEY CHIPPED IN TO MAKE UP IN SOME WAY FOR WHAT BILL SAYER DID TO US!


I KNEW THAT BILL HAD GIVEN UP RANGE RIDING! INSTEAD HE STUCK TO HIS OWN SPREAD AND WORKED THAT! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DANGEROUS FOR HIM TO LEAVE IT--A LOT OF FOLKS WERE PRETTY MAD AT HIM! THEN, ONE DAY SIX MONTHS AFTER THE TRIAL...
SOMEONE'S COMING, MOTHER! WHY...IT LOOKS LIKE...
YOU'RE RIGHT, NANCY! IT *IS* HIM!
4


IT WAS BILL SAYER! HOW DARED HE ? MY HEART SKIPPED A BEAT WHEN I SAW HIM, BUT I SUPPRESSED MY HIDDEN FEELINGS AND LET MY BITTERNESS SHOW!
GET AWAY FROM HERE, BILL SAYER! I TOLD YOU I NEVER WANTED TO SEE YOU... NEVER...NEVER!!
I KNOW, NANCY! BUT THIS IS IMPORTANT! I CAME TO GIVE YOU...THIS!!
HE HANDED ME A THICK ENVELOPE, THEN TURNED AND WHIRLED AWAY IN A CLOUD OF DUST! I TORE MY EYES AWAY FROM HIM TO LOOK AT...
For Nancy Carter to be opened in case anything happens to me. William Sayer
I DIDN'T HESITATE A SECOND BUT TORE OPEN THE ENVELOPE...
WHAT KIND OF ACT IS HE UP TO NOW ? WHY ...IT'S...IT'S...
THE DEED TO HIS RANCH, NANCY! WHY ON EARTH DID HE GIVE YOU THAT ?
IT MUST BE HIS WAY OF MAKING PEACE WITH HIS CONSCIENCE, FOR FRAMING MIKE!
CONFUSION RAGED IN MY HEART LIKE A TORNADO! THIS WAS BEYOND MY UNDERSTANDING! A DOZEN EMOTIONS BATTLED WITHIN ME AS I TRIED TO GRASP THE MEANING OF BILL'S ACTION!
I DON'T KNOW, MOTHER! I DON'T KNOW, BUT...
HELLO, FOLKS!
EH ? WHO'S THAT ?
IT'S ME! QUICK! GET IN THE HOUSE BEFORE SOMEBODY SEES US!
MIKE! MIKE! HOW DID YOU...? YOU...YOU..., ESCAPED!
OH, MY POOR BOY! YOU RAN AWAY ? IT'S NOT RIGHT, MIKE!
HE GRABBED ME AND SHOVED ME RIGHT INTO THE HOUSE! MOTHER FOLLOWED WEAKLY, CRYING AT THIS NEW TROUBLE! MIKE ACTED STRANGE ...TOUGH...CRUEL! THIS WAS NOT THE BROTHER I HAD KNOWN!
MIKE, GO BACK! GIVE YOURSELF UP!
GET IN THERE, I SAID!
OH, MIKE! YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE-- A TERRIBLE MISTAKE!!


NO, MOTHER! I'M AFRAID IT'S WE WHO MADE THE MISTAKE! I'M BEGINNING TO SEE THINGS NOW!
I GOT OUT TO DO TWO THINGS! FIRST IS TO GET THAT COYOTE, SAYER, FOR TURNING ME IN...THEN WE'RE ALL LEAVING HERE WITH THE MONEY I TOOK FROM THE BANK!
MIKE!
YOU DID TAKE THE MONEY!!
SHORE I DID! BILL KNEW I'D BEEN LIFTING THINGS FOR A LONG TIME! HE SAID HE WAS GONNA TURN ME IN BEFORE I GOT INTO TOO MUCH TROUBLE-- SAID THAT WOULD TEACH ME A LESSON! HAW!
AT LAST THE TRUTH CAME POURING OUT LIKE A RICH, WONDERFUL DELUGE! AT LAST I KNEW!
SO! IT'S YOU WHO ARE CROOKED...NOT BILL! HE KNEW YOU'D ESCAPED AND WERE OUT TO GET HIM...THAT'S WHY HE GAVE ME HIS DEED! AND IT WAS BILL WHO'S BEEN SENDING US MONEY TO LIVE ON! OH! HOW WRONG I WAS! HOW WRONG!
FORGET IT, NANCY! WE'RE ALL GOING TO THE CITY AND LIVE LIKE PEOPLE! BUT FIRST SAYER!
...AND HE WAS OFF, HIS HORSE'S HOOFS THUNDERING ACROSS THE PLAINS! DEATH RODE WITH HIM...DEATH FOR BILL SAYER!
OH, NO! NO! HOW COULD HE? HOW COULD HE?
MIKE! COME BACK! YOU MUSTN'T! OH...IT'S NO USE! HE'S GONE LOCO!
I KNEW THAT IN ORDER TO ESCAPE BEING SEEN, MIKE WOULD HAVE TO GO THE LONG WAY TO BILL'S PLACE! I TOOK THE SHORT WAY! WHEN I GOT THERE...
NANCY! GET AWAY FROM HERE...QUICK!
NO, BILL! MY PLACE IS WITH YOU!
I RUSHED INTO HIS ARMS, MY BACK TO THE ROAD THROUGH WHICH MIKE MUST COME! BILL WAS WORRIED FOR ME...FOR WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IN A MOMENT...
YOU WERE RIGHT, BILL! CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME, MY DARLING?
NO TIME FOR THAT, NANCY!...TAKE GOOD CARE OF THAT ENVELOPE I GAVE YOU!
6


I HELD ONTO HIM WITH ALL MY STRENGTH! HE COULDN'T TEAR ME AWAY FROM HIM! THEN... A VOICE, COLD, HARD!
ALL RIGHT, COYOTE --SAY YOUR PRAYERS!
I'M READY FOR ANYTHING YOU'VE GOT, MIKE... BUT...
GO AHEAD, MIKE... SHOOT!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO KILL BILL, YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL ME, TOO! HE'S GIVEN UP SO MUCH FOR ME, FOR MOTHER AND FOR YOU, TOO! NOW I CAN GIVE UP MY LIFE FOR HIM--IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT IT!
BUT, NANCY... HE SENT ME TO PRISON! ME ...YOUR BROTHER!
BUT YOU WERE GUILTY, MIKE! AND YOU YOURSELF TOLD ME HE DID IT TO KEEP YOU FROM DOING ANYTHING WORSE... AND NOW YOU'RE GOING TO!... YOU'RE GOING TO BE A MURDERER... OF TWO PEOPLE!
NANCY... YOU'D DIE FOR BILL??? YOU'D SIDE WITH HIM AGAINST ME? I NEVER EXPECTED...! I THOUGHT I WAS BEING GLAMOROUS... A HERO-- BUT YOU'RE LOOKING AT ME AS THOUGH I'M A SLIMY LIZARD!
OH, NANCY... WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN! AND IF NOT FOR YOU, I'D BE WORSE THAN A FOOL... I'D BE A MURDERER!
COME FOLLOW ME... I-I'LL LEAD YOU TO WHERE THE MONEY IS HIDDEN...
I'M SEEING MYSELF FOR THE FIRST TIME... AND I DON'T LIKE WHAT I SEE!
IT WAS LIKE A MIRACLE! MIKE RETURNED THE MONEY AND GAVE HIMSELF UP!... AND BILL? I COULDN'T SEE HIM ENOUGH, LISTEN TO HIM ENOUGH, ADORE HIM ENOUGH!
OH, BILL, BECAUSE MIKE GAVE UP THE MONEY, THEY'LL LET HIM OUT ON PAROLE IN TWO MONTHS!
HONEY, ANXIOUS AS I AM TO MARRY YOU, LET'S WAIT UNTIL HE COMES OUT! YOU SEE, I WANT HIM TO BE OUR BEST MAN!
7
AND SO, WHERE ONCE HEARTBREAK AND HATE HAD DWELLED, LOVE RETURNED AGAIN TO CHEROKEE COUNTY... AND TO MY HEART!
THE END

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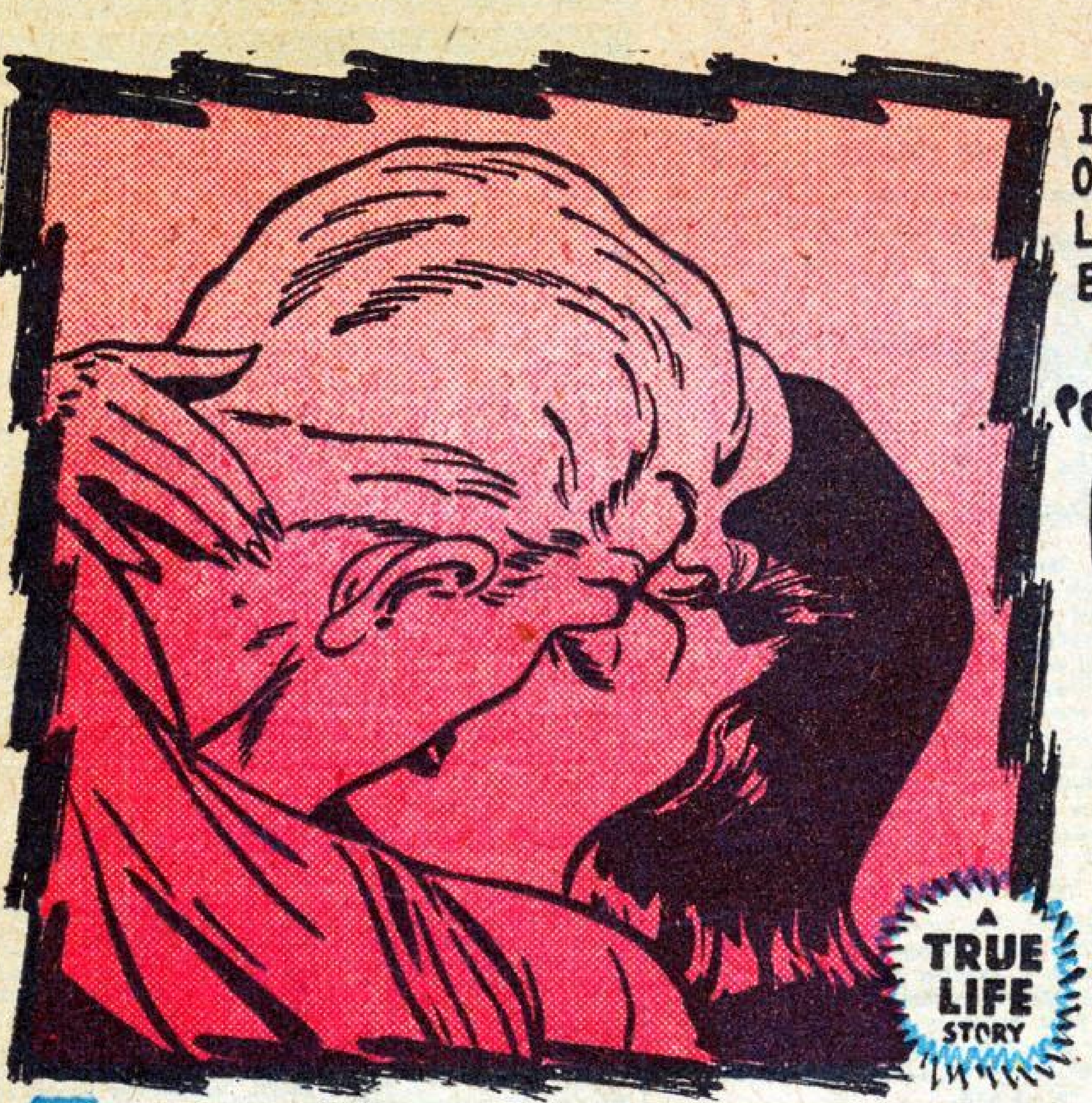
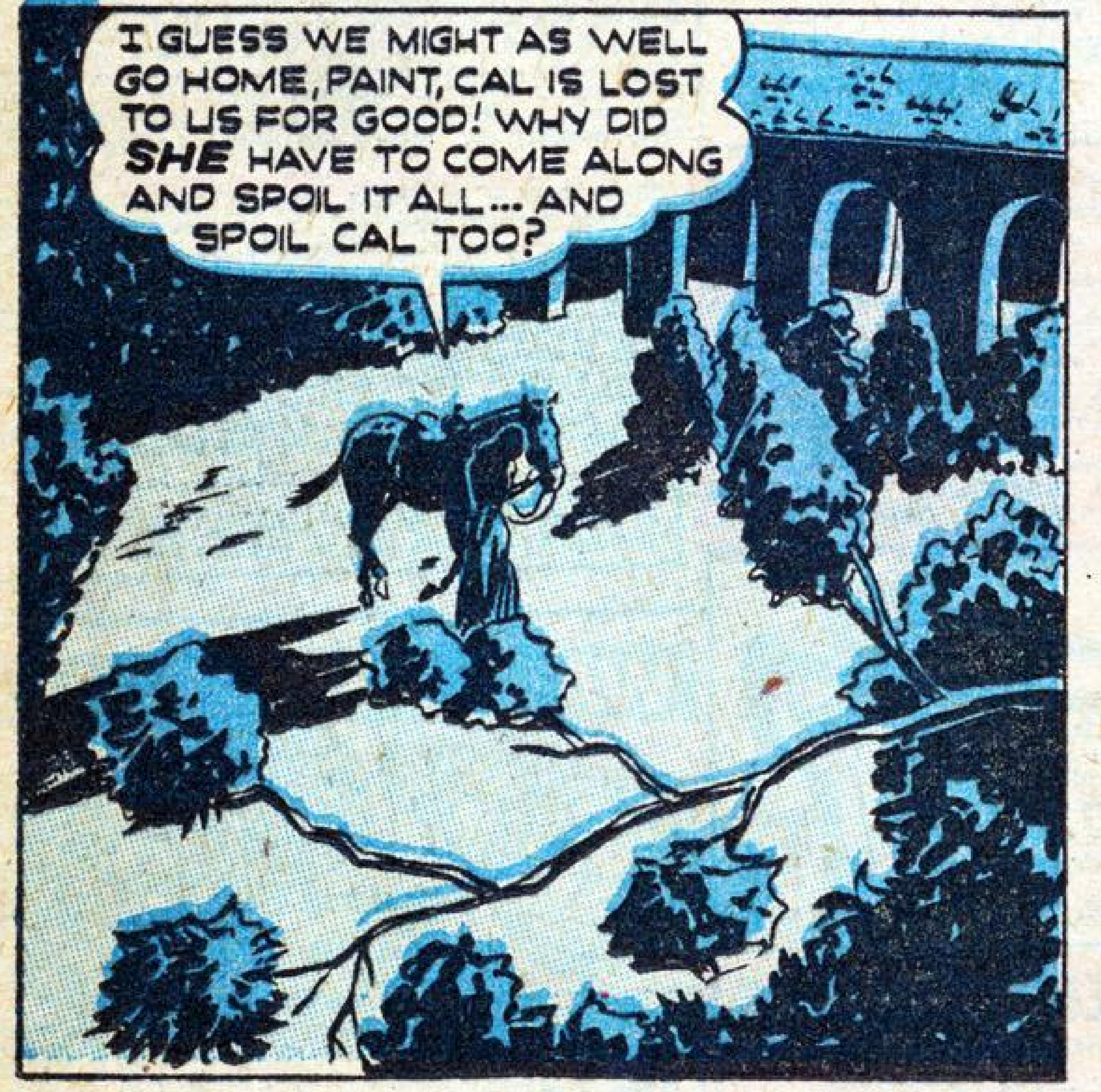
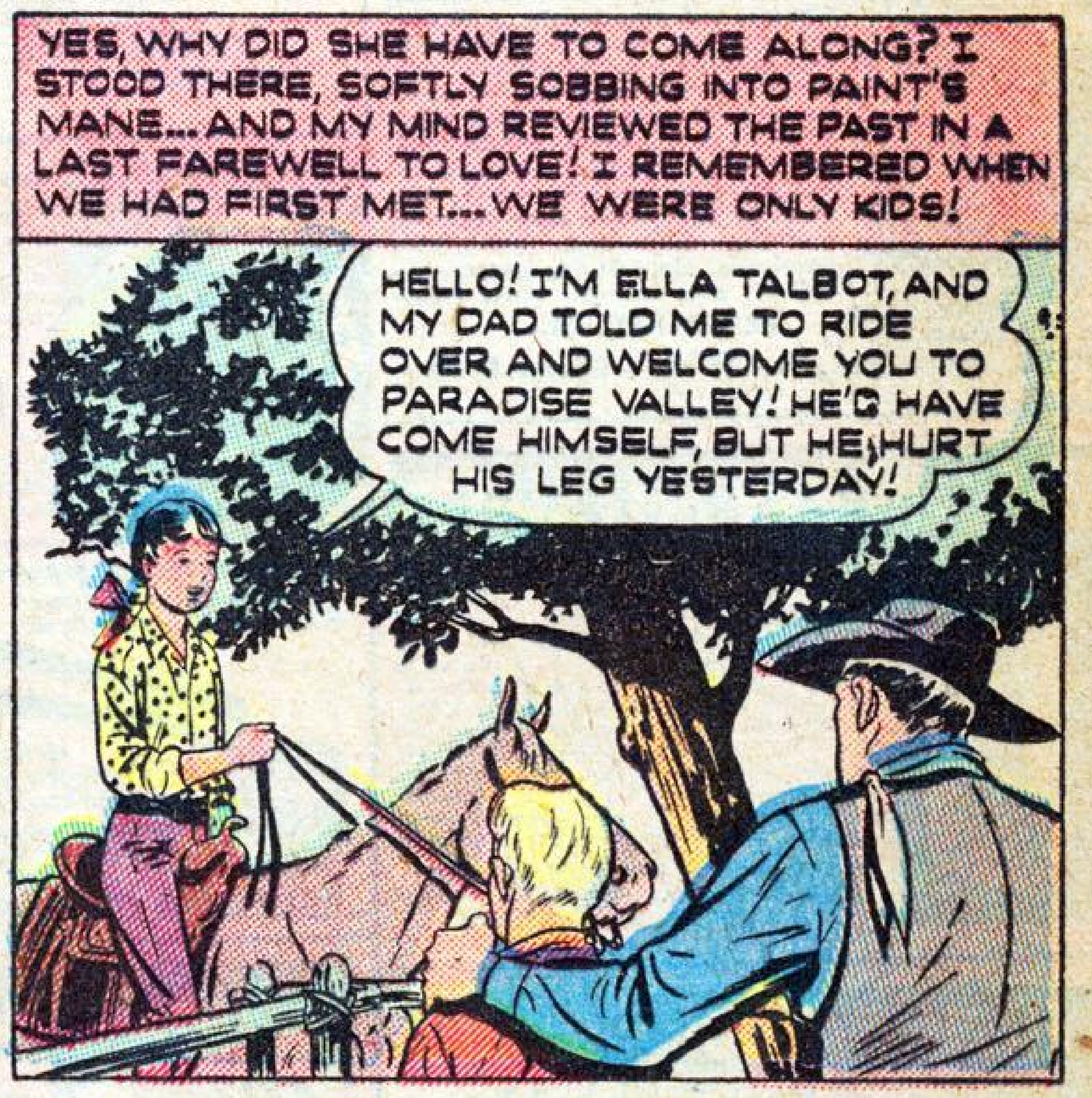

A TRUE LIFE STORY

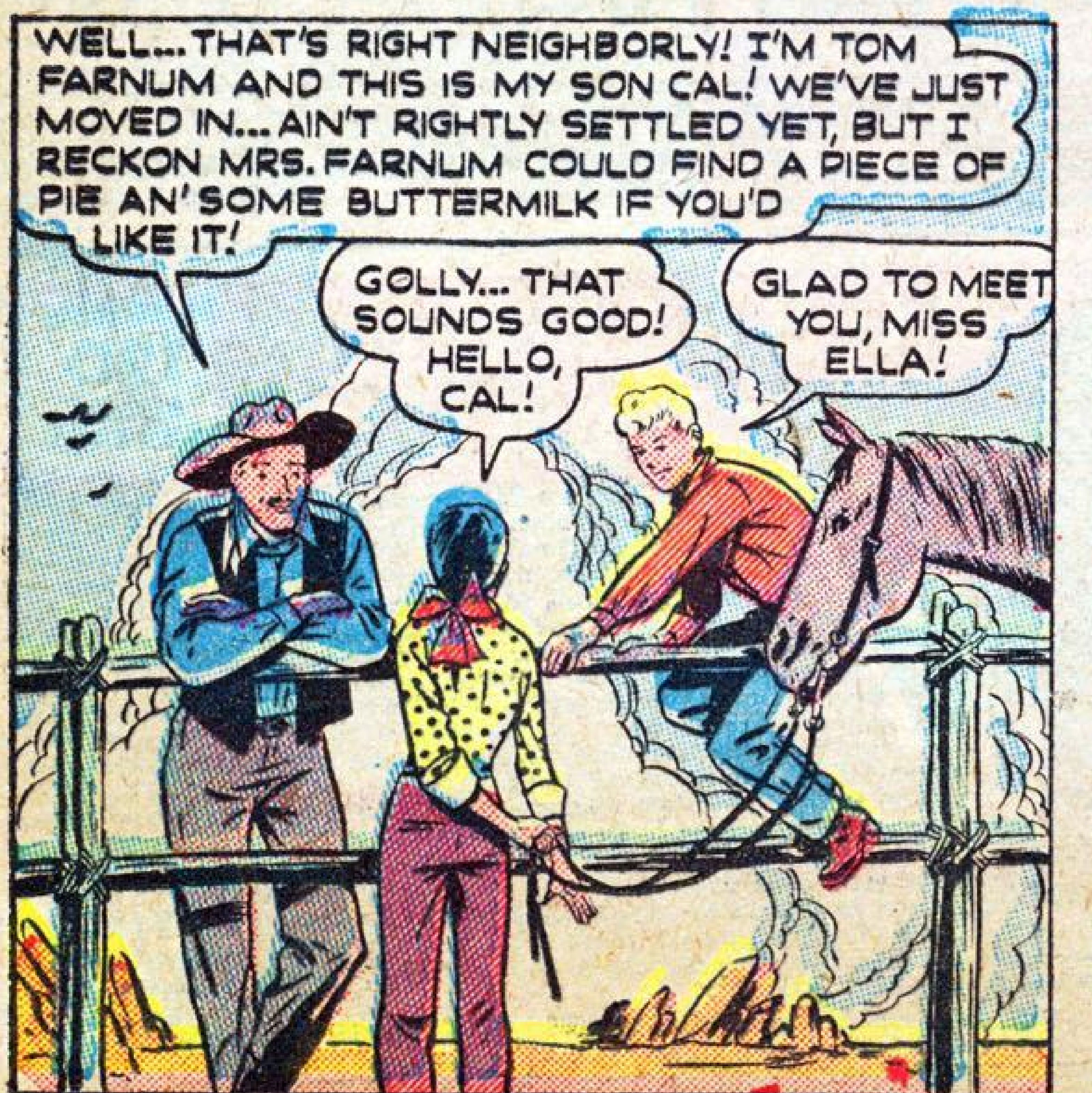
I TRIED TO KEEP A LIGHT-HEARTED SMILE ON MY LIPS EVEN THOUGH I KNEW I WAS LOSING THE MAN I ADORED... FOREVER! BUT THOUGH MY LIPS WERE SEALED, MY SOUL WAS DEAD WITHIN ME!

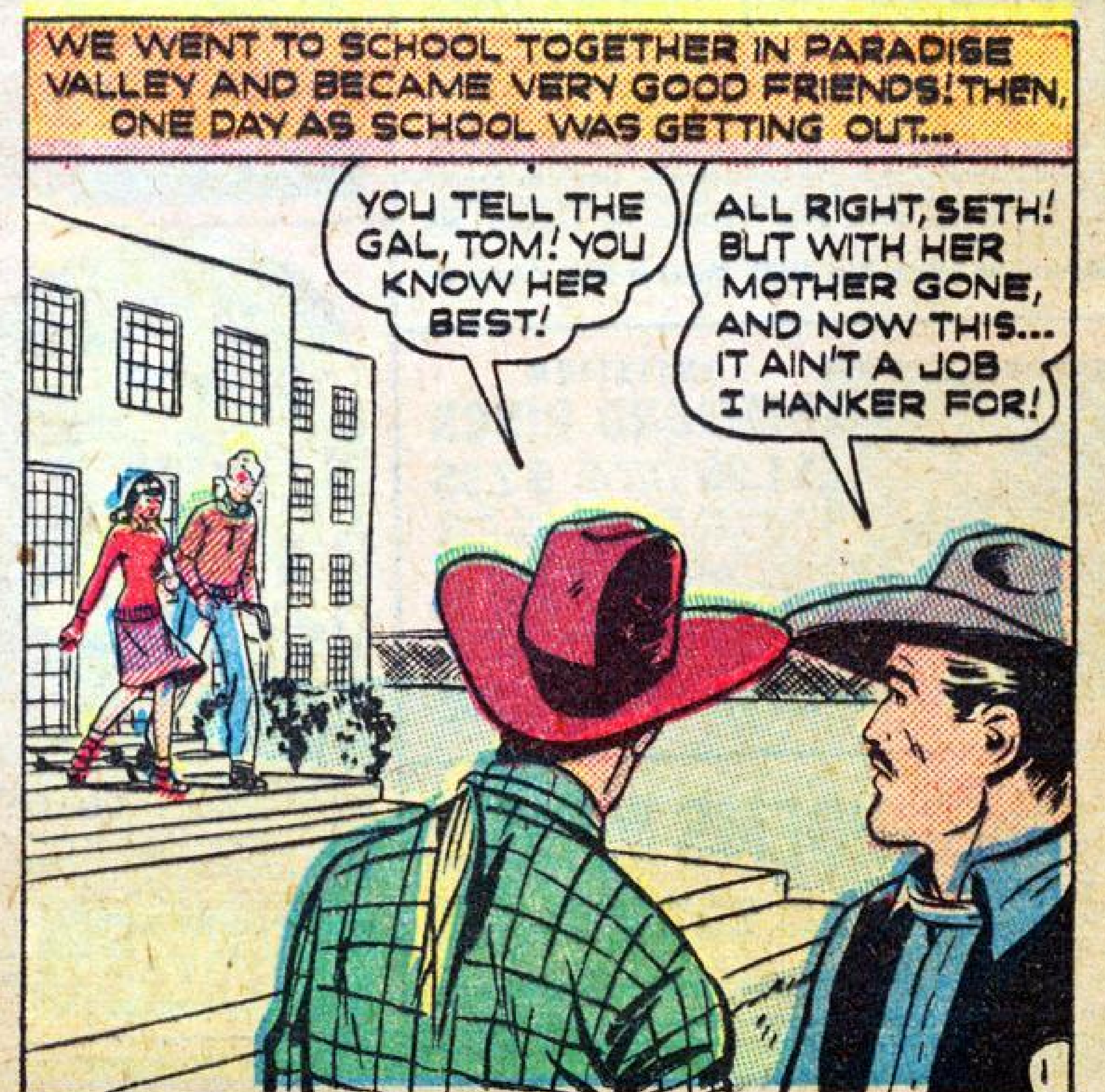
"COWGIRLS DON'T CRY!"

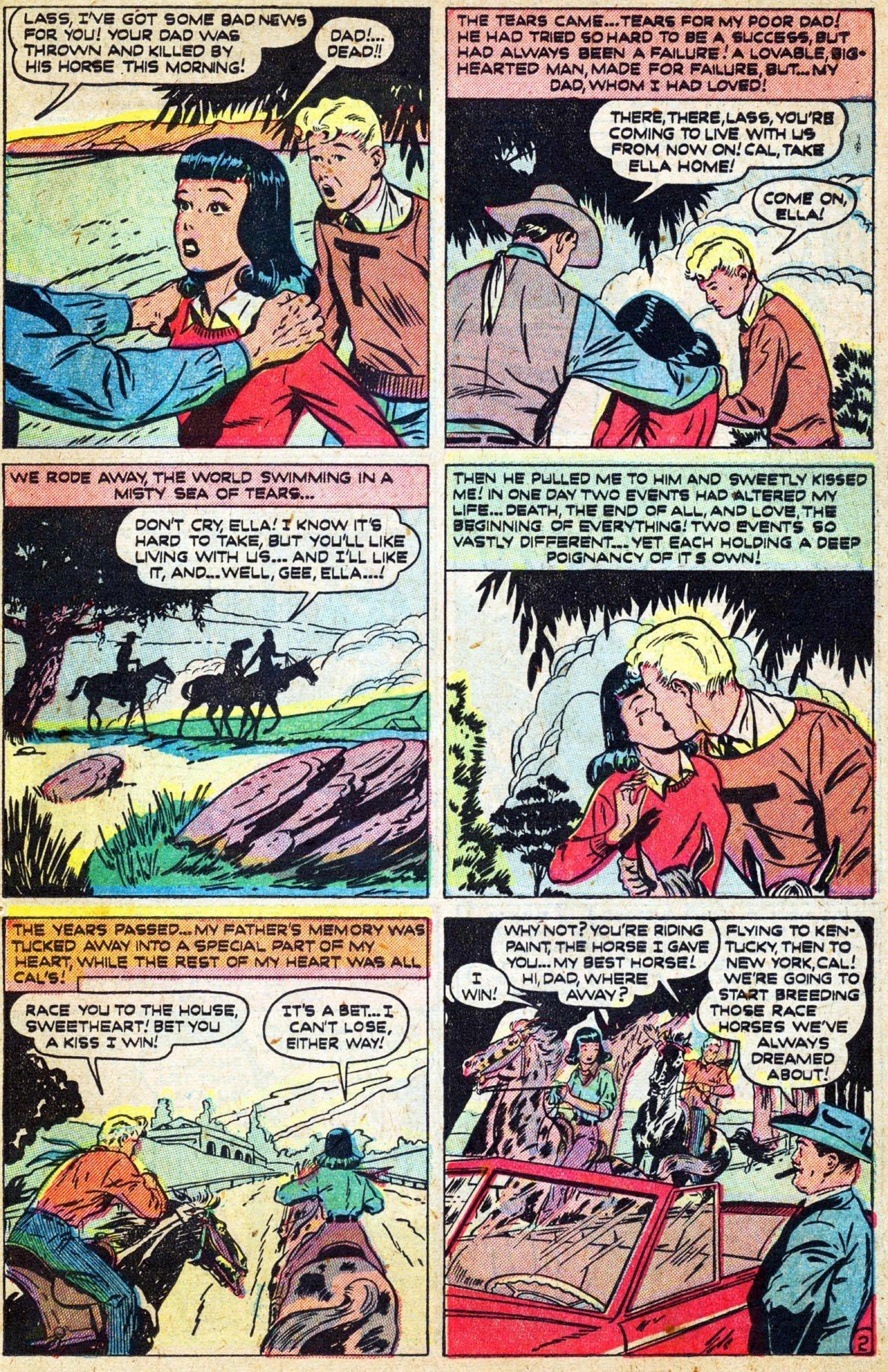
6284

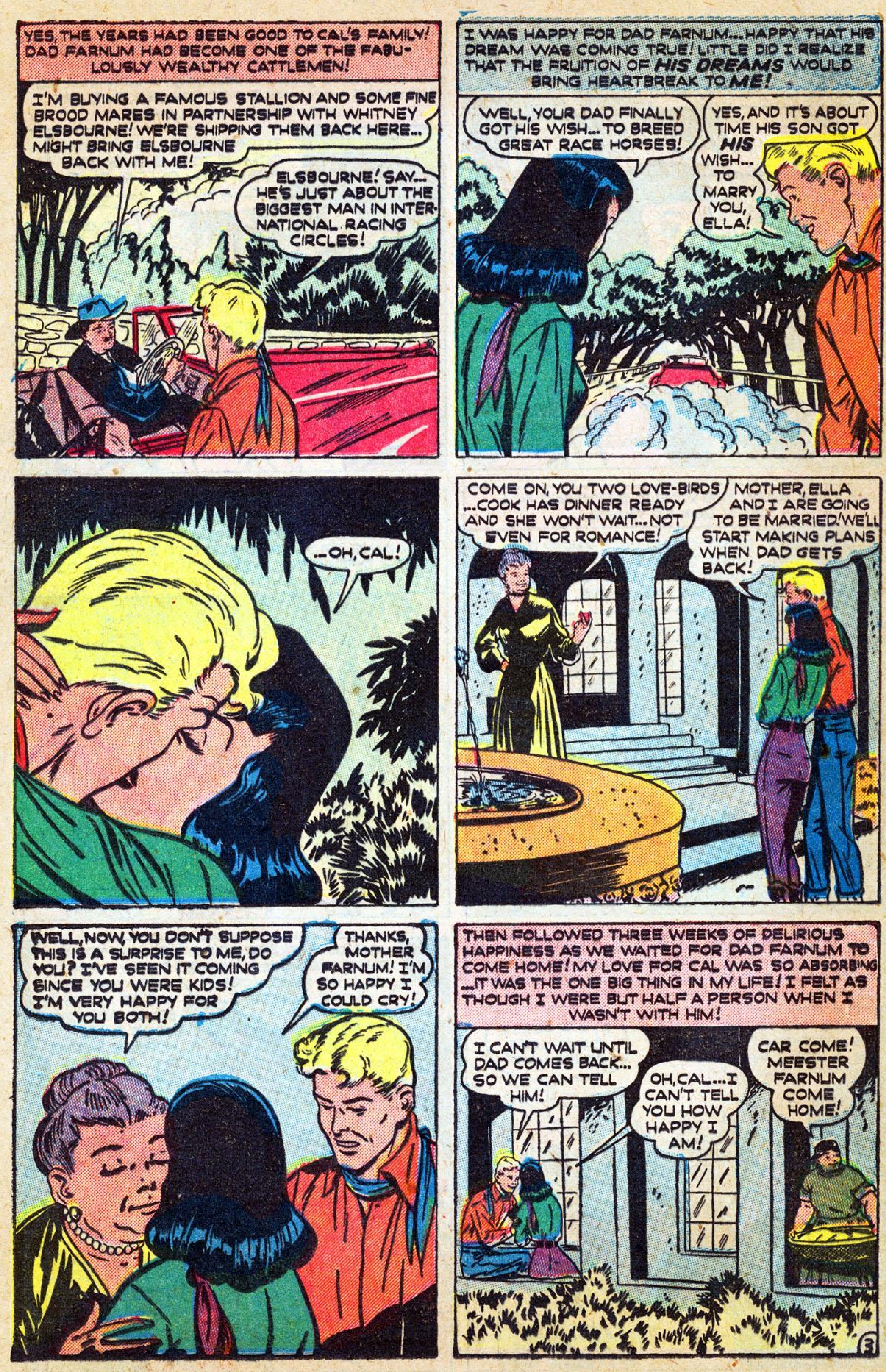

I GUESS WE MIGHT AS WELL GO HOME, PAINT, CAL IS LOST TO US FOR GOOD! WHY DID *SHE* HAVE TO COME ALONG AND SPOIL IT ALL... AND SPOIL CAL TOO?

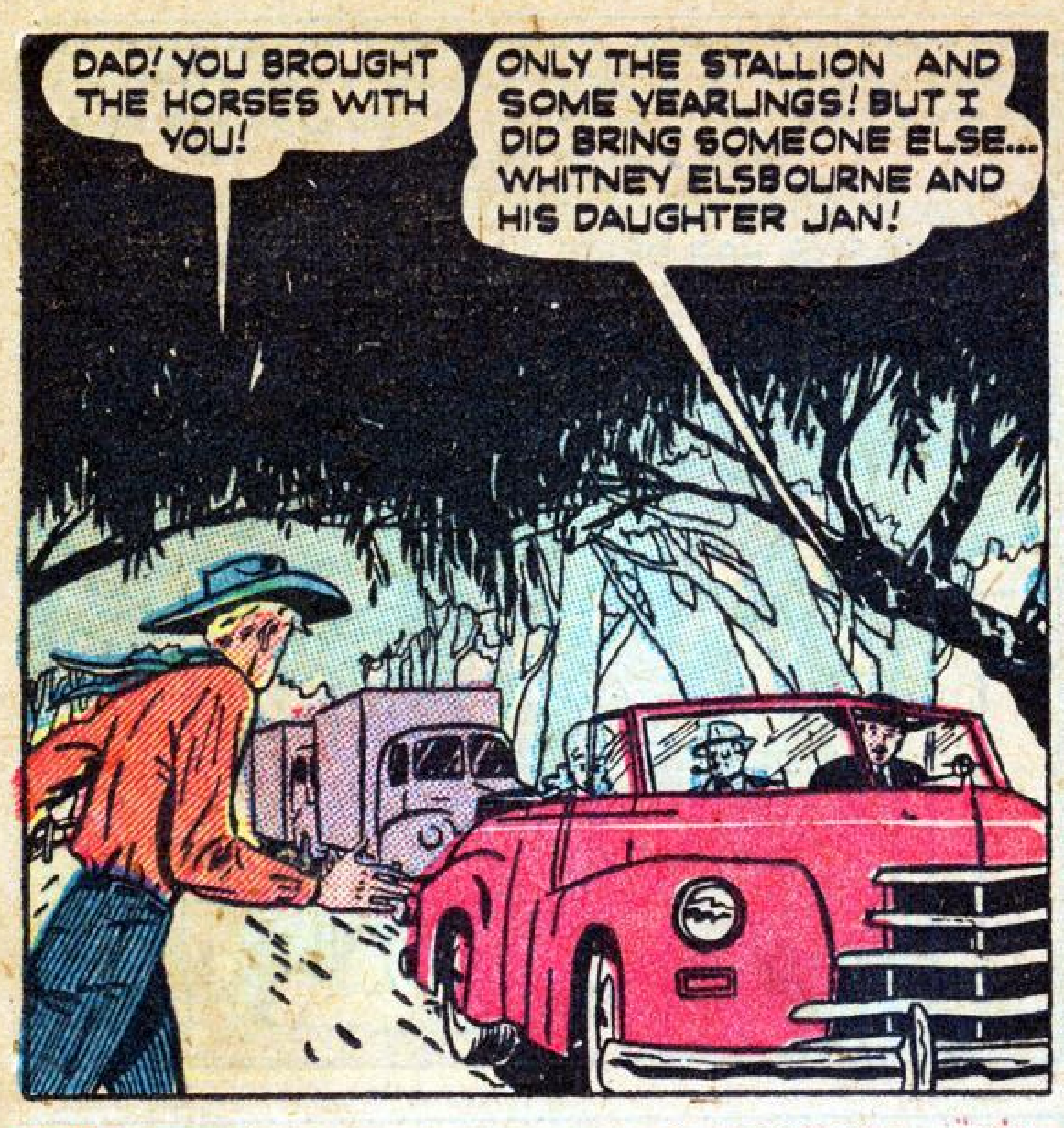

YES, WHY DID SHE HAVE TO COME ALONG? I STOOD THERE, SOFTLY SOBBING INTO PAINT'S MANE... AND MY MIND REVIEWED THE PAST IN A LAST FAREWELL TO LOVE! I REMEMBERED WHEN WE HAD FIRST MET... WE WERE ONLY KIDS!
HELLO! I'M ELLA TALBOT, AND MY DAD TOLD ME TO RIDE OVER AND WELCOME YOU TO PARADISE VALLEY! HE'D HAVE COME HIMSELF, BUT HE HURT HIS LEG YESTERDAY!

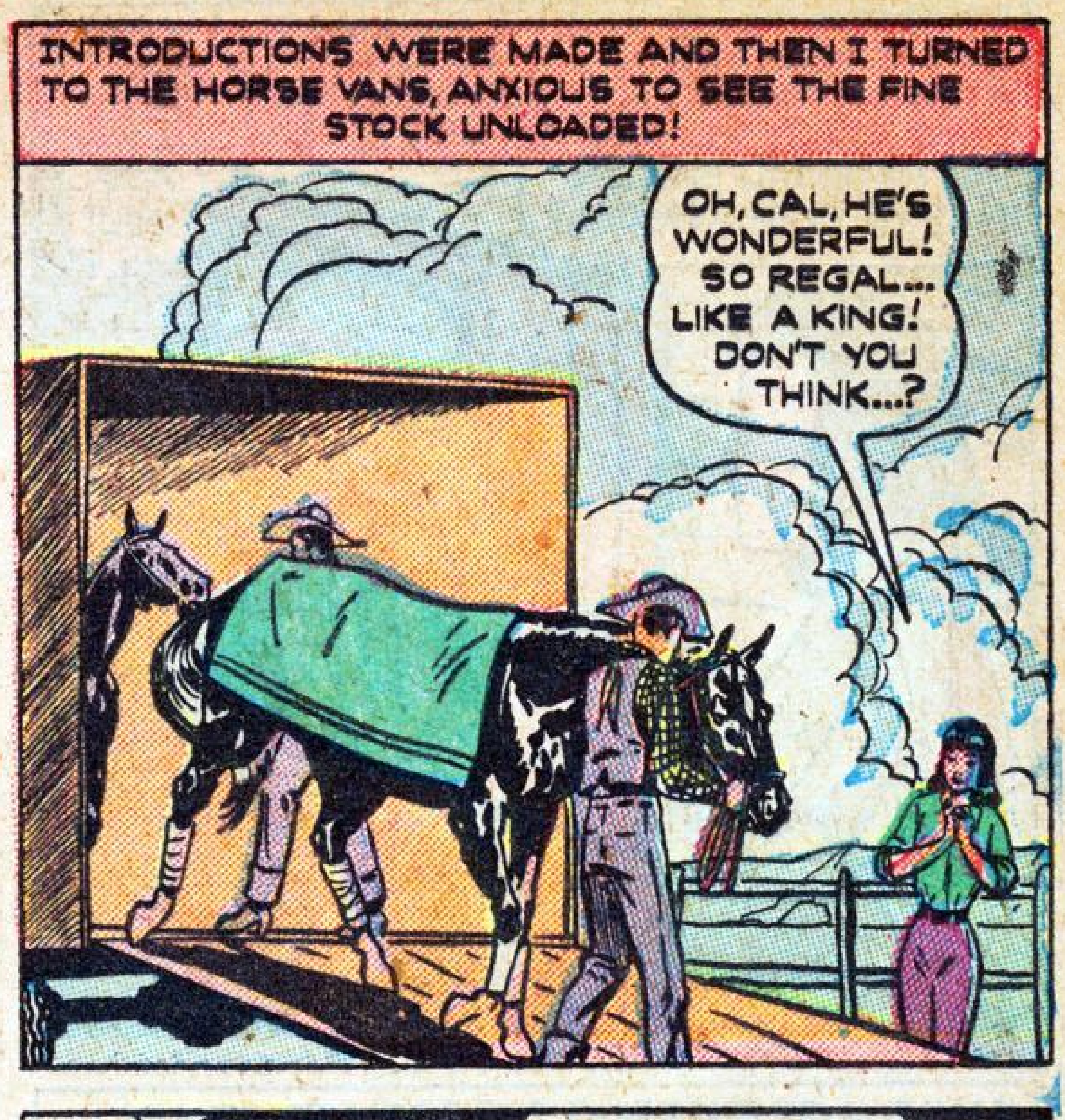

WELL... THAT'S RIGHT NEIGHBORLY! I'M TOM FARNUM AND THIS IS MY SON CAL! WE'VE JUST MOVED IN... AIN'T RIGHTLY SETTLED YET, BUT I RECKON MRS. FARNUM COULD FIND A PIECE OF PIE AN' SOME BUTTERMILK IF YOU'D LIKE IT!
GOLLY... THAT SOUNDS GOOD! HELLO, CAL!
GLAD TO MEET YOU, MISS ELLA!

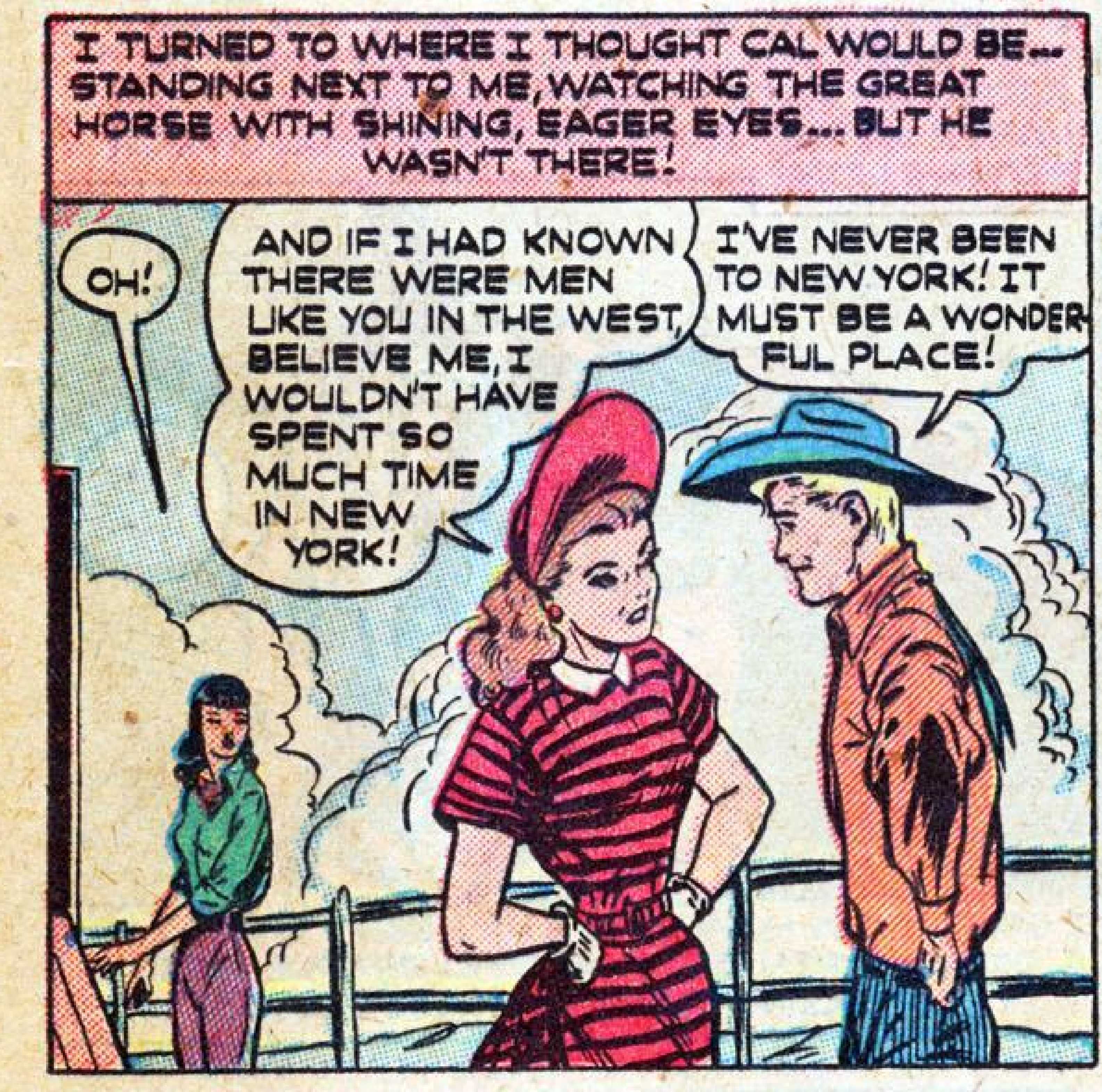

WE WENT TO SCHOOL TOGETHER IN PARADISE VALLEY AND BECAME VERY GOOD FRIENDS! THEN, ONE DAY AS SCHOOL WAS GETTING OUT...
YOU TELL THE GAL, TOM! YOU KNOW HER BEST!
ALL RIGHT, SETH! BUT WITH HER MOTHER GONE, AND NOW THIS... IT AIN'T A JOB I HANKER FOR!

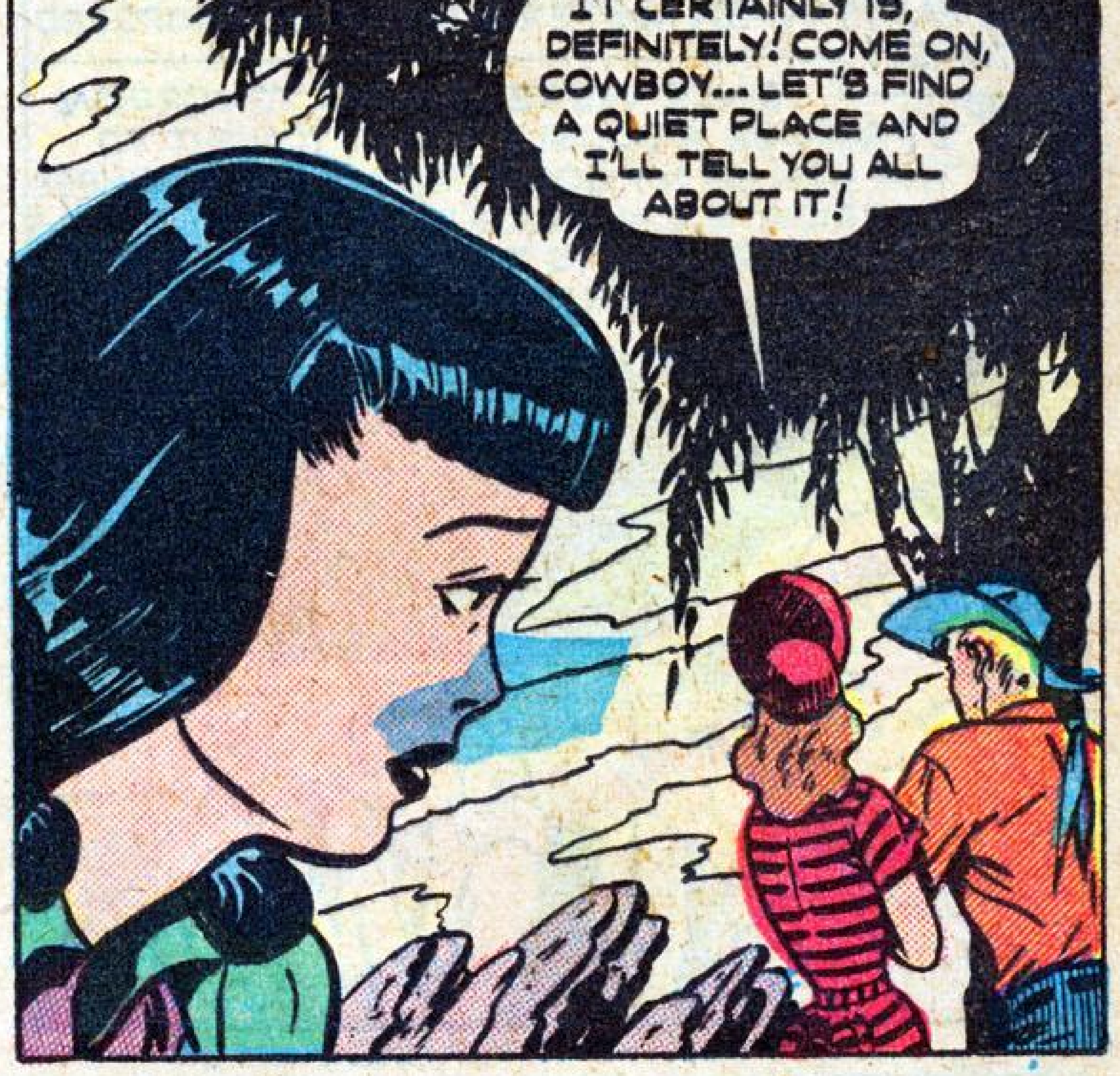

LASS, I'VE GOT SOME BAD NEWS FOR YOU! YOUR DAD WAS THROWN AND KILLED BY HIS HORSE THIS MORNING!
DAD!... DEAD!!
THE TEARS CAME... TEARS FOR MY POOR DAD! HE HAD TRIED SO HARD TO BE A SUCCESS, BUT HAD ALWAYS BEEN A FAILURE! A LOVABLE, BIG-HEARTED MAN, MADE FOR FAILURE, BUT... MY DAD, WHOM I HAD LOVED!
THERE, THERE, LASS, YOU'RE COMING TO LIVE WITH US FROM NOW ON! CAL, TAKE ELLA HOME!
COME ON, ELLA!
WE RODE AWAY, THE WORLD SWIMMING IN A MISTY SEA OF TEARS...
DON'T CRY, ELLA! I KNOW IT'S HARD TO TAKE, BUT YOU'LL LIKE LIVING WITH US... AND I'LL LIKE IT, AND... WELL, GEE, ELLA...!
THEN HE PULLED ME TO HIM AND SWEETLY KISSED ME! IN ONE DAY TWO EVENTS HAD ALTERED MY LIFE... DEATH, THE END OF ALL, AND LOVE, THE BEGINNING OF EVERYTHING! TWO EVENTS SO VASTLY DIFFERENT... YET EACH HOLDING A DEEP POIGNANCY OF IT'S OWN!
THE YEARS PASSED... MY FATHER'S MEMORY WAS TUCKED AWAY INTO A SPECIAL PART OF MY HEART, WHILE THE REST OF MY HEART WAS ALL CAL'S!
RACE YOU TO THE HOUSE, SWEETHEART! BET YOU A KISS I WIN!
IT'S A BET... I CAN'T LOSE, EITHER WAY!
I WIN!
WHY NOT? YOU'RE RIDING PAINT, THE HORSE I GAVE YOU... MY BEST HORSE! HI, DAD, WHERE AWAY?
FLYING TO KENTUCKY, THEN TO NEW YORK, CAL! WE'RE GOING TO START BREEDING THOSE RACE HORSES WE'VE ALWAYS DREAMED ABOUT!

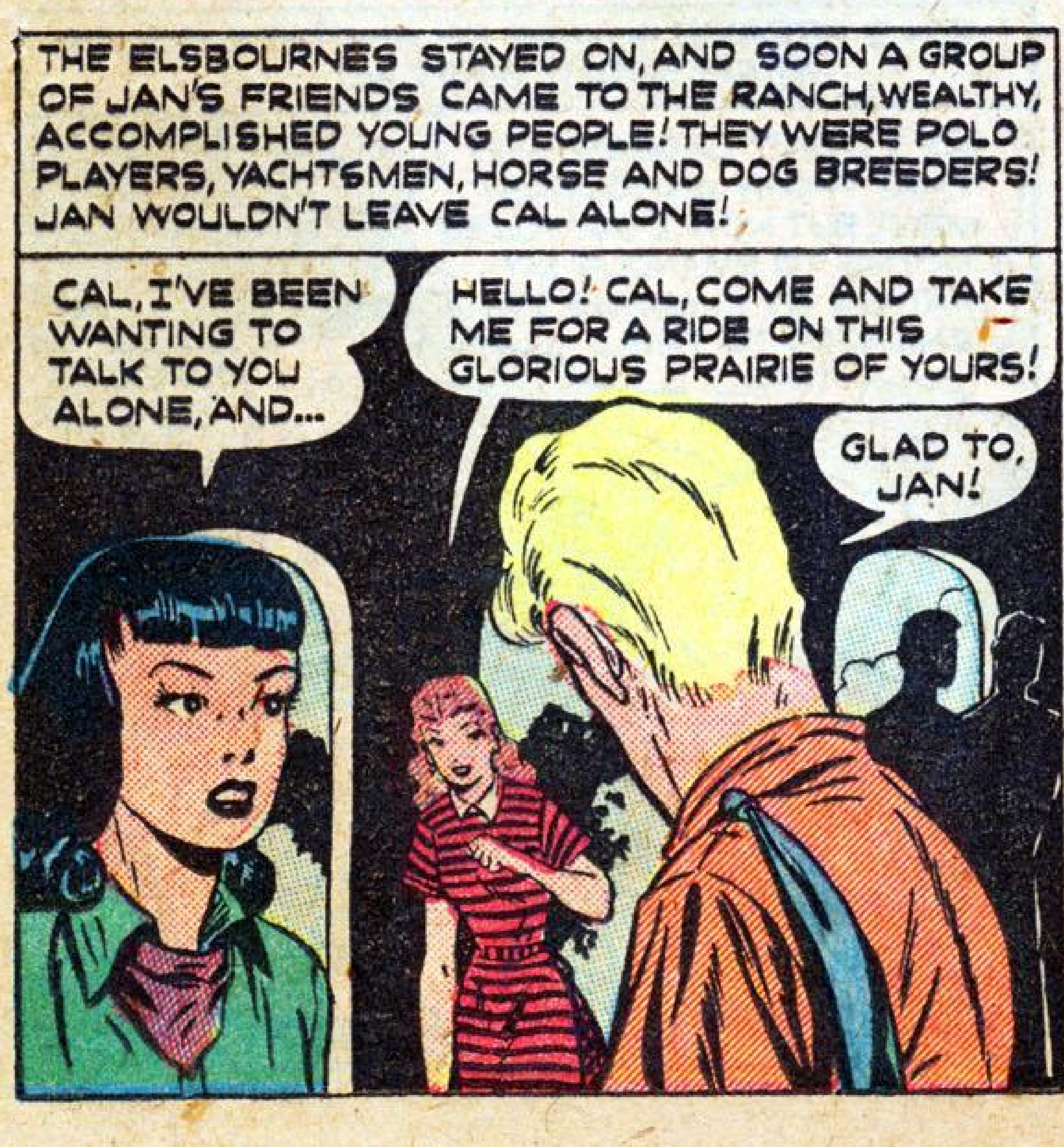

YES, THE YEARS HAD BEEN GOOD TO CAL'S FAMILY! DAD FARNUM HAD BECOME ONE OF THE FABULOUSLY WEALTHY CATTLEMEN!
I'M BUYING A FAMOUS STALLION AND SOME FINE BROOD MARES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WHITNEY ELSBOURNE! WE'RE SHIPPING THEM BACK HERE... MIGHT BRING ELSBOURNE BACK WITH ME!
ELSBOURNE! SAY... HE'S JUST ABOUT THE BIGGEST MAN IN INTERNATIONAL RACING CIRCLES!
I WAS HAPPY FOR DAD FARNUM... HAPPY THAT HIS DREAM WAS COMING TRUE! LITTLE DID I REALIZE THAT THE FRUITION OF HIS DREAMS WOULD BRING HEARTBREAK TO ME!
WELL, YOUR DAD FINALLY GOT HIS WISH... TO BREED GREAT RACE HORSES!
YES, AND IT'S ABOUT TIME HIS SON GOT HIS WISH... TO MARRY YOU, ELLA!
...OH, CAL!
COME ON, YOU TWO LOVE-BIRDS ...COOK HAS DINNER READY AND SHE WON'T WAIT... NOT EVEN FOR ROMANCE!
MOTHER, ELLA AND I ARE GOING TO BE MARRIED! WE'LL START MAKING PLANS WHEN DAD GETS BACK!
WELL, NOW, YOU DON'T SUPPOSE THIS IS A SURPRISE TO ME, DO YOU? I'VE SEEN IT COMING SINCE YOU WERE KIDS! I'M VERY HAPPY FOR YOU BOTH!
THANKS, MOTHER FARNUM! I'M SO HAPPY I COULD CRY!
THEN FOLLOWED THREE WEEKS OF DELIRIOUS HAPPINESS AS WE WAITED FOR DAD FARNUM TO COME HOME! MY LOVE FOR CAL WAS SO ABSORBING ...IT WAS THE ONE BIG THING IN MY LIFE! I FELT AS THOUGH I WERE BUT HALF A PERSON WHEN I WASN'T WITH HIM!
I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL DAD COMES BACK... SO WE CAN TELL HIM!
OH, CAL... I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW HAPPY I AM!
CAR COME! MEESTER FARNUM COME HOME!

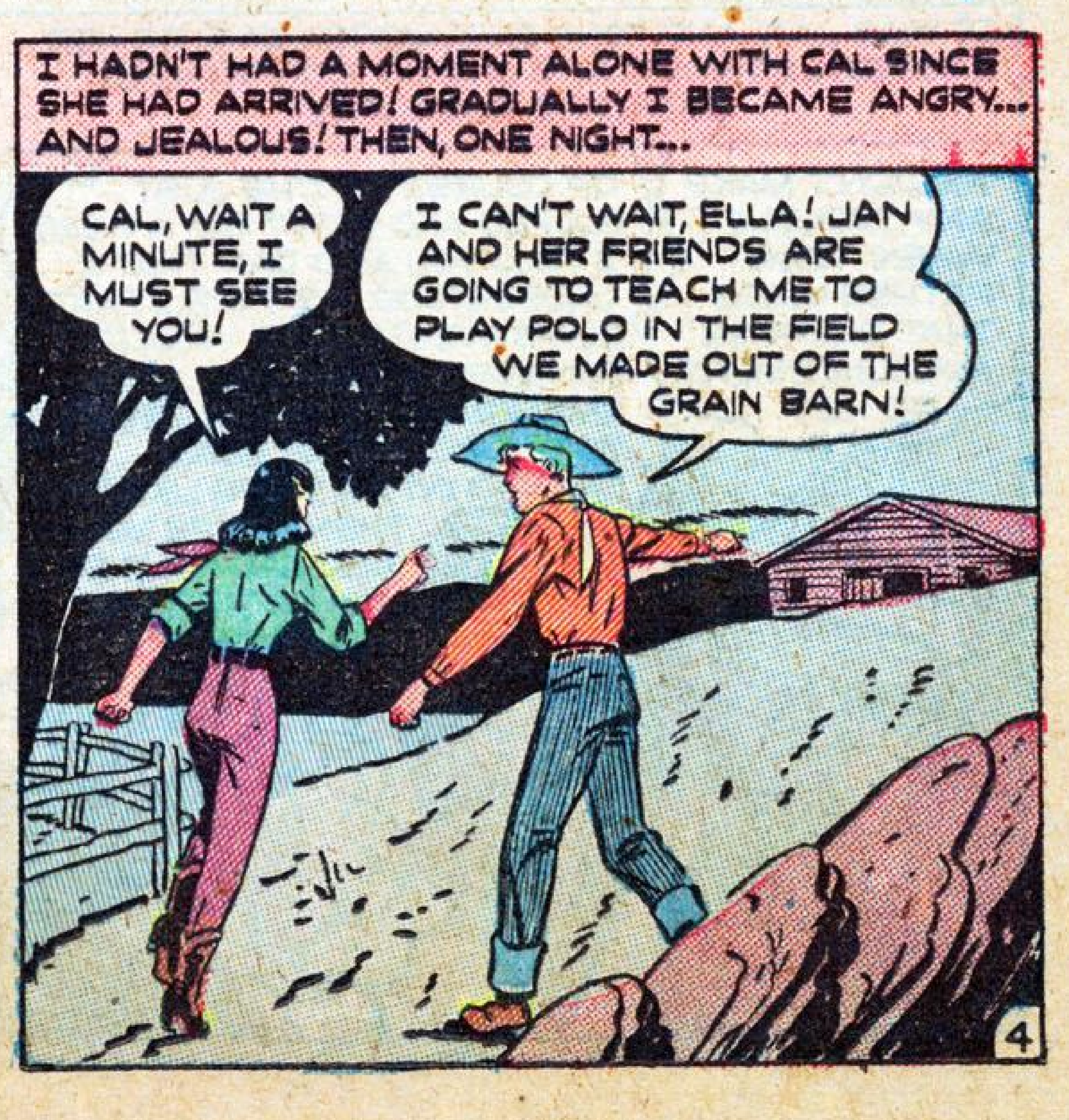

DAD! YOU BROUGHT THE HORSES WITH YOU!
ONLY THE STALLION AND SOME YEARLINGS! BUT I DID BRING SOMEONE ELSE... WHITNEY ELSBOURNE AND HIS DAUGHTER JAN!

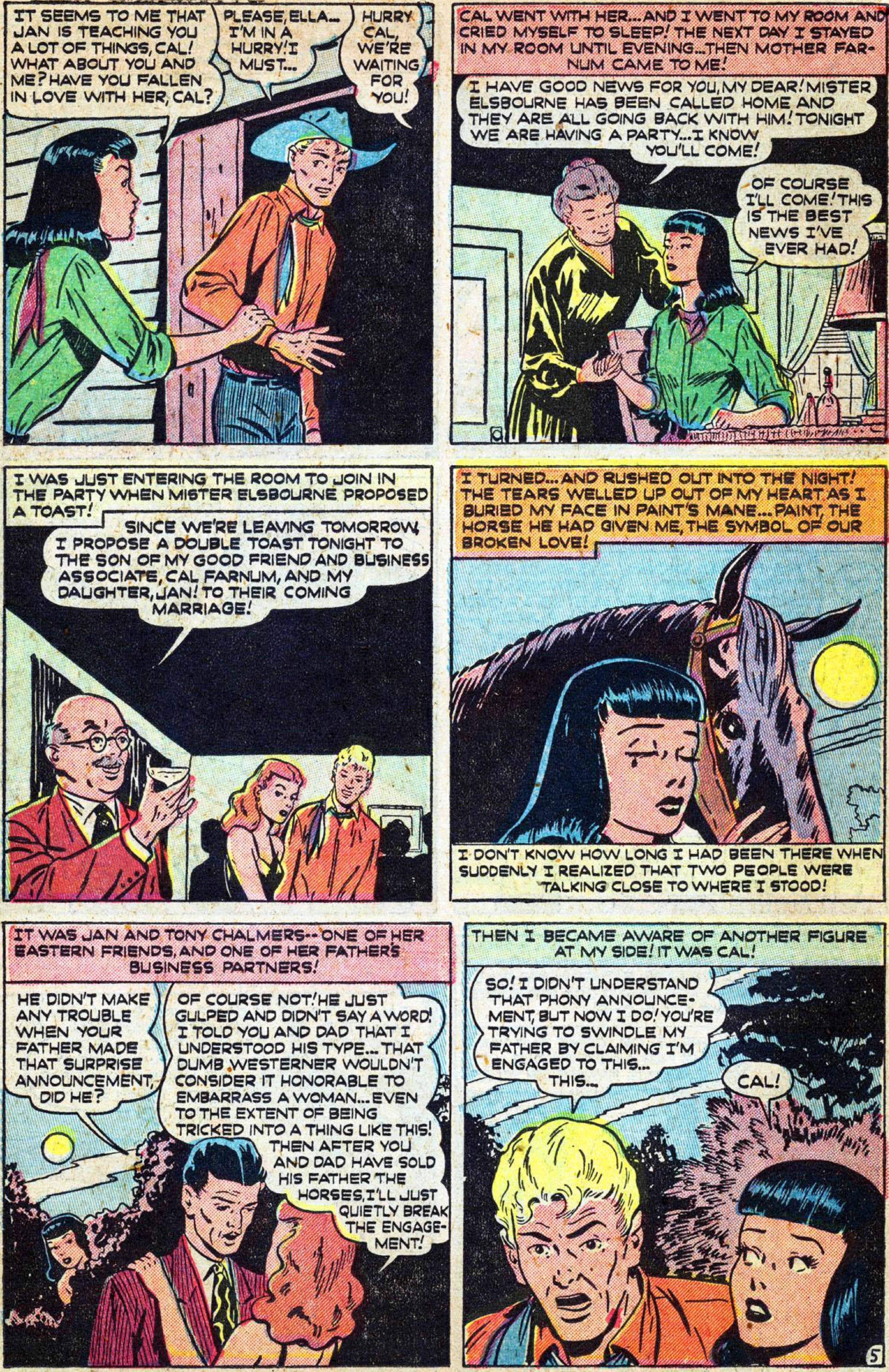

INTRODUCTIONS WERE MADE AND THEN I TURNED TO THE HORSE VANS, ANXIOUS TO SEE THE FINE STOCK UNLOADED!
OH, CAL, HE'S WONDERFUL! SO REGAL... LIKE A KING! DON'T YOU THINK...?

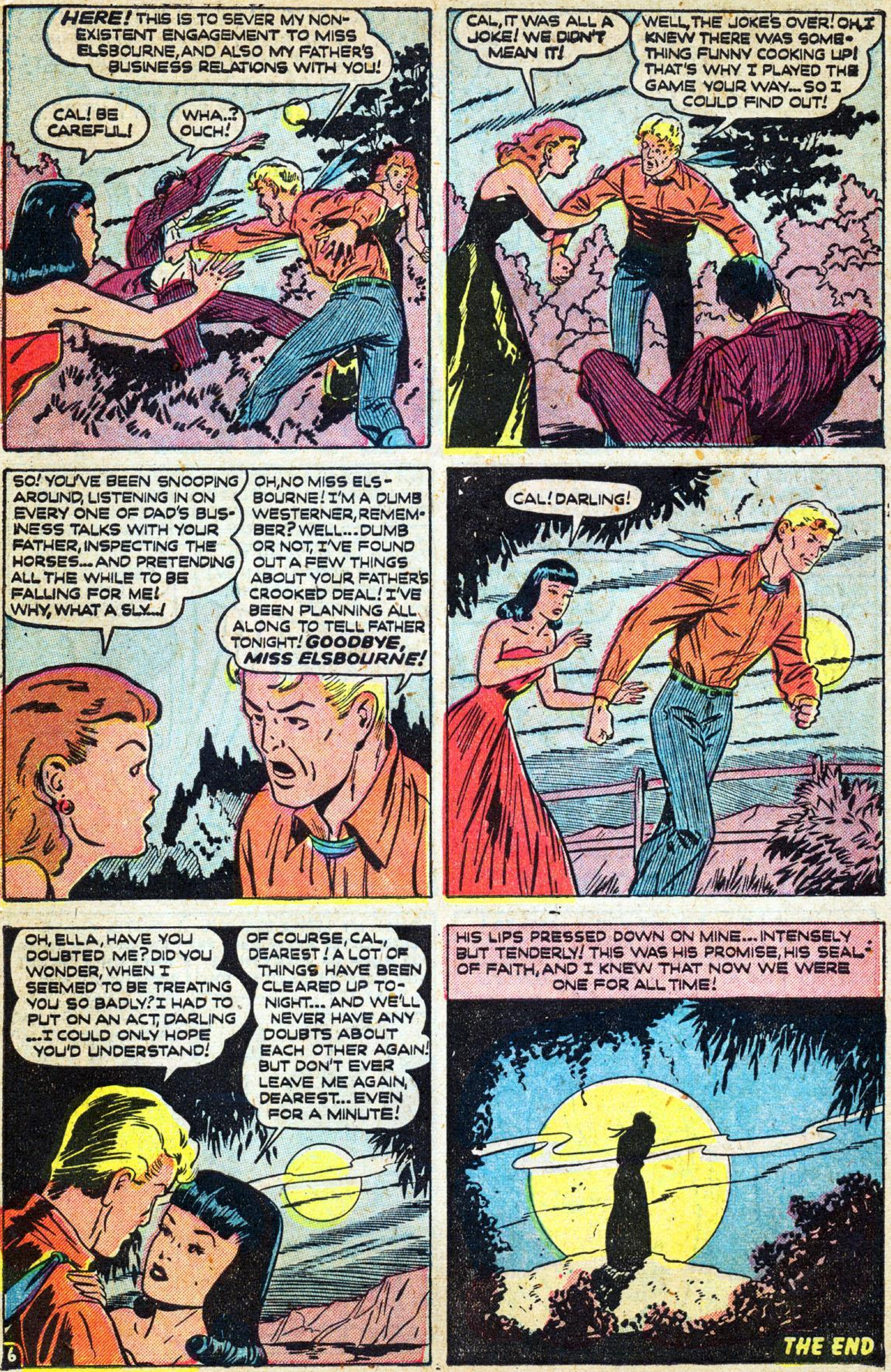

I TURNED TO WHERE I THOUGHT CAL WOULD BE... STANDING NEXT TO ME, WATCHING THE GREAT HORSE WITH SHINING, EAGER EYES... BUT HE WASN'T THERE!
OH!
AND IF I HAD KNOWN THERE WERE MEN LIKE YOU IN THE WEST, BELIEVE ME, I WOULDN'T HAVE SPENT SO MUCH TIME IN NEW YORK!
I'VE NEVER BEEN TO NEW YORK! IT MUST BE A WONDERFUL PLACE!

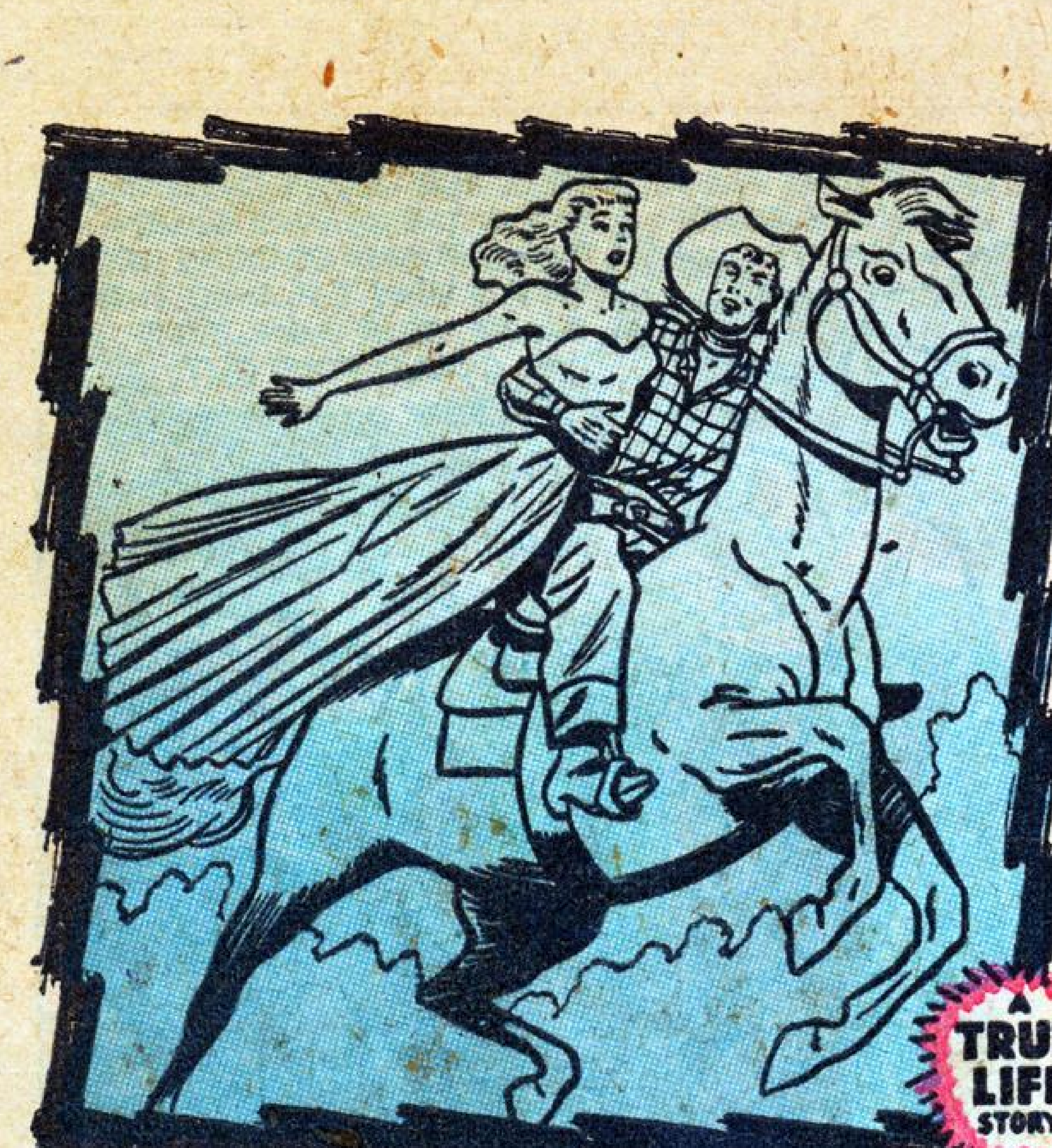

IT CERTAINLY IS, DEFINITELY! COME ON, COWBOY... LET'S FIND A QUIET PLACE AND I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT!


THE ELSBOURNES STAYED ON, AND SOON A GROUP OF JAN'S FRIENDS CAME TO THE RANCH, WEALTHY, ACCOMPLISHED YOUNG PEOPLE! THEY WERE POLO PLAYERS, YACHTSMEN, HORSE AND DOG BREEDERS! JAN WOULDN'T LEAVE CAL ALONE!
CAL, I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TALK TO YOU ALONE, AND...
HELLO! CAL, COME AND TAKE ME FOR A RIDE ON THIS GLORIOUS PRAIRIE OF YOURS!
GLAD TO, JAN!


I HADN'T HAD A MOMENT ALONE WITH CAL SINCE SHE HAD ARRIVED! GRADUALLY I BECAME ANGRY... AND JEALOUS! THEN, ONE NIGHT...
CAL, WAIT A MINUTE, I MUST SEE YOU!
I CAN'T WAIT, ELLA! JAN AND HER FRIENDS ARE GOING TO TEACH ME TO PLAY POLO IN THE FIELD WE MADE OUT OF THE GRAIN BARN!


IT SEEMS TO ME THAT JAN IS TEACHING YOU A LOT OF THINGS, CAL! WHAT ABOUT YOU AND ME? HAVE YOU FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HER, CAL?
PLEASE, ELLA... I'M IN A HURRY! I MUST...
HURRY CAL, WE'RE WAITING FOR YOU!
CAL WENT WITH HER... AND I WENT TO MY ROOM AND CRIED MYSELF TO SLEEP! THE NEXT DAY I STAYED IN MY ROOM UNTIL EVENING... THEN MOTHER FARNUM CAME TO ME!
I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU, MY DEAR! MISTER ELSBOURNE HAS BEEN CALLED HOME AND THEY ARE ALL GOING BACK WITH HIM! TONIGHT WE ARE HAVING A PARTY... I KNOW YOU'LL COME!
OF COURSE I'LL COME! THIS IS THE BEST NEWS I'VE EVER HAD!
I WAS JUST ENTERING THE ROOM TO JOIN IN THE PARTY WHEN MISTER ELSBOURNE PROPOSED A TOAST!
SINCE WE'RE LEAVING TOMORROW, I PROPOSE A DOUBLE TOAST TONIGHT TO THE SON OF MY GOOD FRIEND AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATE, CAL FARNUM, AND MY DAUGHTER, JAN! TO THEIR COMING MARRIAGE!
I TURNED... AND RUSHED OUT INTO THE NIGHT! THE TEARS WELLED UP OUT OF MY HEART AS I BURIED MY FACE IN PAINT'S MANE... PAINT, THE HORSE HE HAD GIVEN ME, THE SYMBOL OF OUR BROKEN LOVE!
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I HAD BEEN THERE WHEN SUDDENLY I REALIZED THAT TWO PEOPLE WERE TALKING CLOSE TO WHERE I STOOD!
IT WAS JAN AND TONY CHALMERS-- ONE OF HER EASTERN FRIENDS, AND ONE OF HER FATHER'S BUSINESS PARTNERS!
HE DIDN'T MAKE ANY TROUBLE WHEN YOUR FATHER MADE THAT SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT, DID HE?
OF COURSE NOT! HE JUST GULPED AND DIDN'T SAY A WORD! I TOLD YOU AND DAD THAT I UNDERSTOOD HIS TYPE... THAT DUMB WESTERNER WOULDN'T CONSIDER IT HONORABLE TO EMBARRASS A WOMAN... EVEN TO THE EXTENT OF BEING TRICKED INTO A THING LIKE THIS! THEN AFTER YOU AND DAD HAVE SOLD HIS FATHER THE HORSES, I'LL JUST QUIETLY BREAK THE ENGAGEMENT!
THEN I BECAME AWARE OF ANOTHER FIGURE AT MY SIDE! IT WAS CAL!
SO! I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT PHONY ANNOUNCEMENT, BUT NOW I DO! YOU'RE TRYING TO SWINDLE MY FATHER BY CLAIMING I'M ENGAGED TO THIS... THIS...
CAL!


HERE! THIS IS TO SEVER MY NON-EXISTENT ENGAGEMENT TO MISS ELSBOURNE, AND ALSO MY FATHER'S BUSINESS RELATIONS WITH YOU!
CAL! BE CAREFUL!
WHA..? OUCH!
CAL, IT WAS ALL A JOKE! WE DIDN'T MEAN IT!
WELL, THE JOKE'S OVER! OH, I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING FUNNY COOKING UP! THAT'S WHY I PLAYED THE GAME YOUR WAY... SO I COULD FIND OUT!
SO! YOU'VE BEEN SNOOPING AROUND, LISTENING IN ON EVERY ONE OF DAD'S BUSINESS TALKS WITH YOUR FATHER, INSPECTING THE HORSES... AND PRETENDING ALL THE WHILE TO BE FALLING FOR ME! WHY, WHAT A SLY...!
OH, NO MISS ELSBOURNE! I'M A DUMB WESTERNER, REMEMBER? WELL... DUMB OR NOT, I'VE FOUND OUT A FEW THINGS ABOUT YOUR FATHER'S CROOKED DEAL! I'VE BEEN PLANNING ALL ALONG TO TELL FATHER TONIGHT! ***GOODBYE, MISS ELSBOURNE!***
CAL! DARLING!
OH, ELLA, HAVE YOU DOUBTED ME? DID YOU WONDER, WHEN I SEEMED TO BE TREATING YOU SO BADLY? I HAD TO PUT ON AN ACT, DARLING ...I COULD ONLY HOPE YOU'D UNDERSTAND!
OF COURSE, CAL, DEAREST! A LOT OF THINGS HAVE BEEN CLEARED UP TONIGHT... AND WE'LL NEVER HAVE ANY DOUBTS ABOUT EACH OTHER AGAIN! BUT DON'T EVER LEAVE ME AGAIN, DEAREST... EVEN FOR A MINUTE!
HIS LIPS PRESSED DOWN ON MINE... INTENSELY BUT TENDERLY! THIS WAS HIS PROMISE, HIS SEAL OF FAITH, AND I KNEW THAT NOW WE WERE ONE FOR ALL TIME!
THE END



THE CHALLENGE HAD BEEN THROWN IN HIS TEETH... IF HE DIDN'T PROVE HIMSELF AT THAT MOMENT, OUR LOVE WOULD BE LOST! WHY DIDN'T HE ACT? WHY DIDN'T HE STRIKE BACK? WHY WOULDN'T HE BE...

"THE COWBOY WHO DARED!"

A TRUE LIFE STORY

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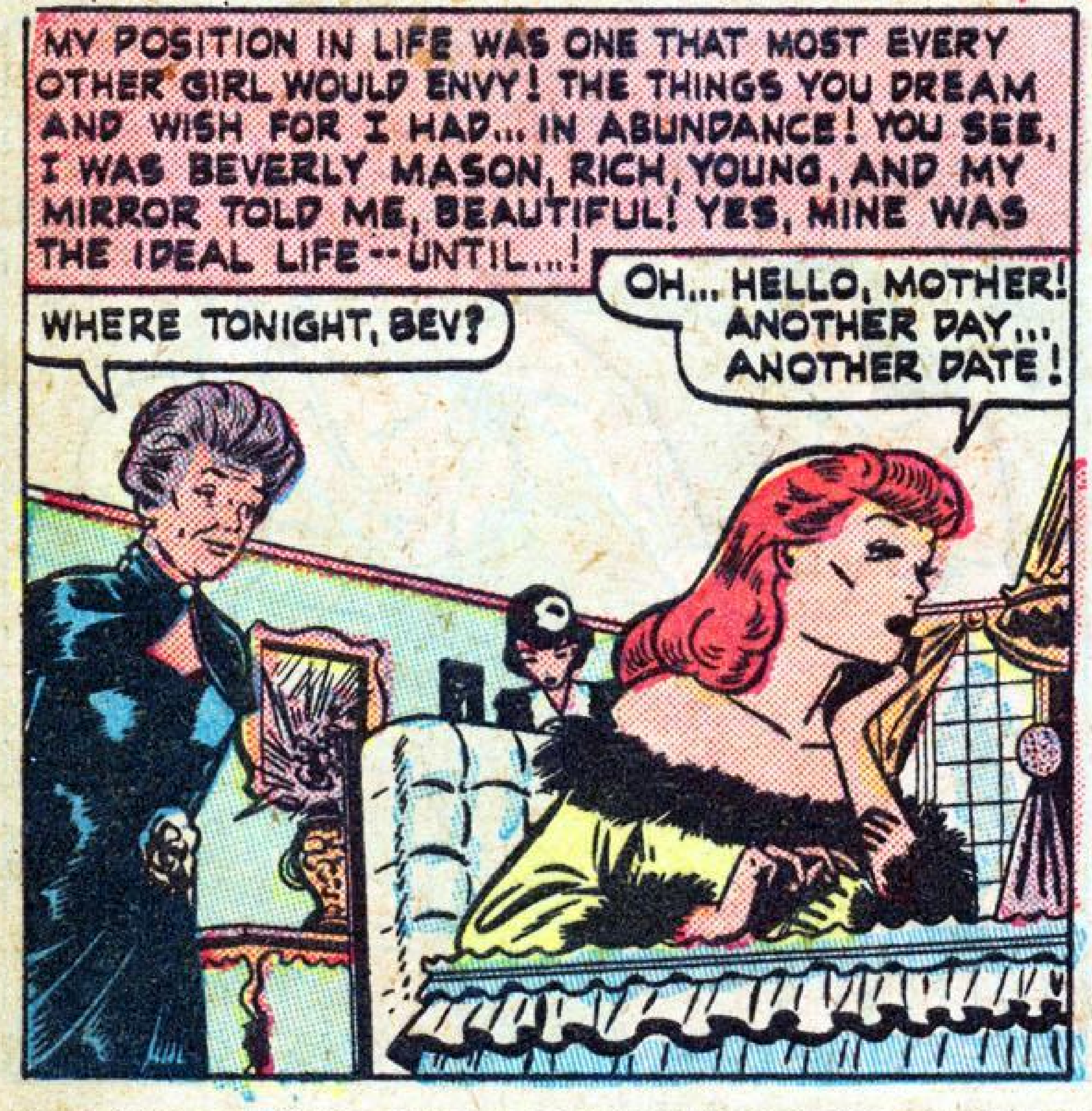
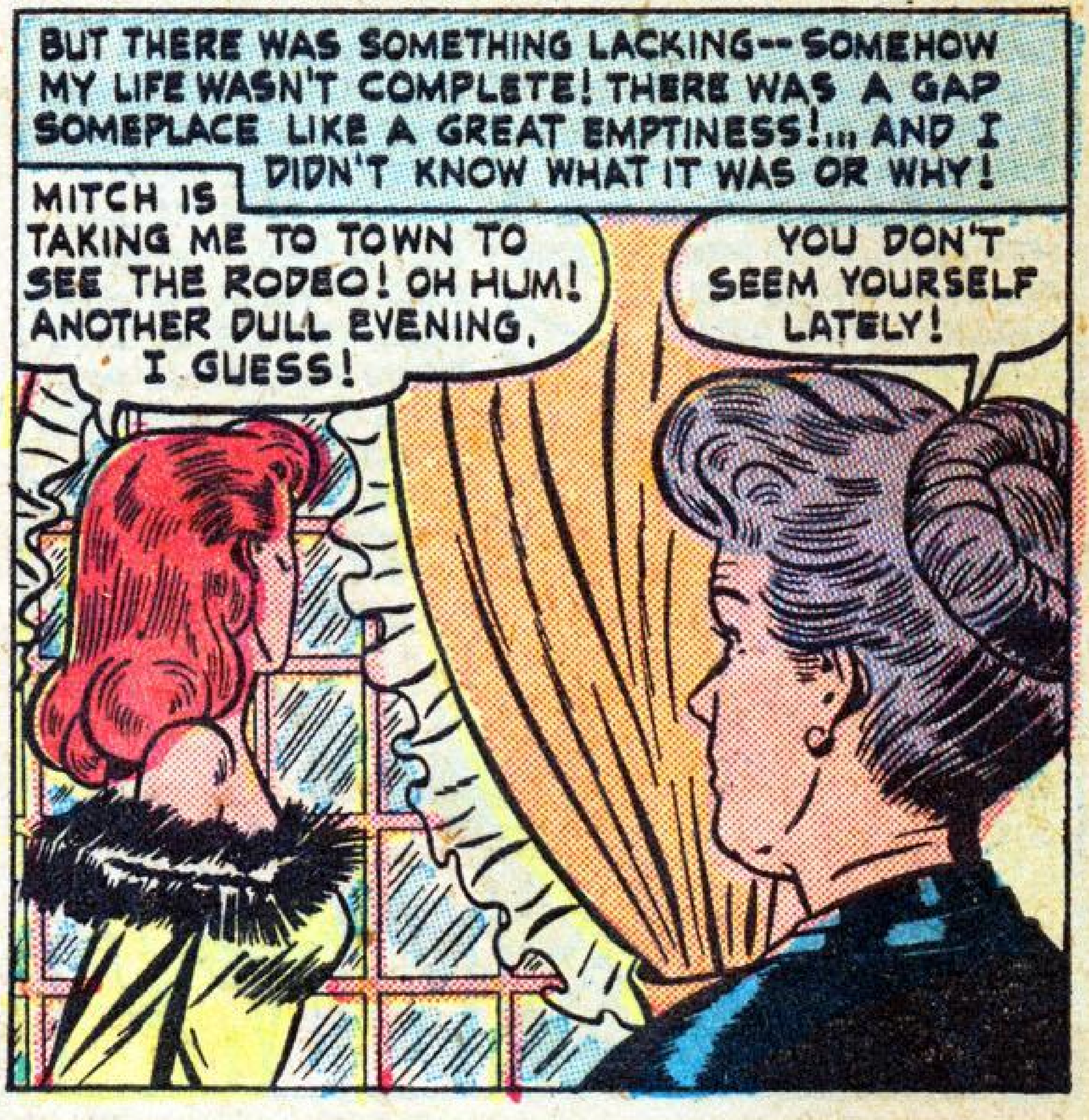
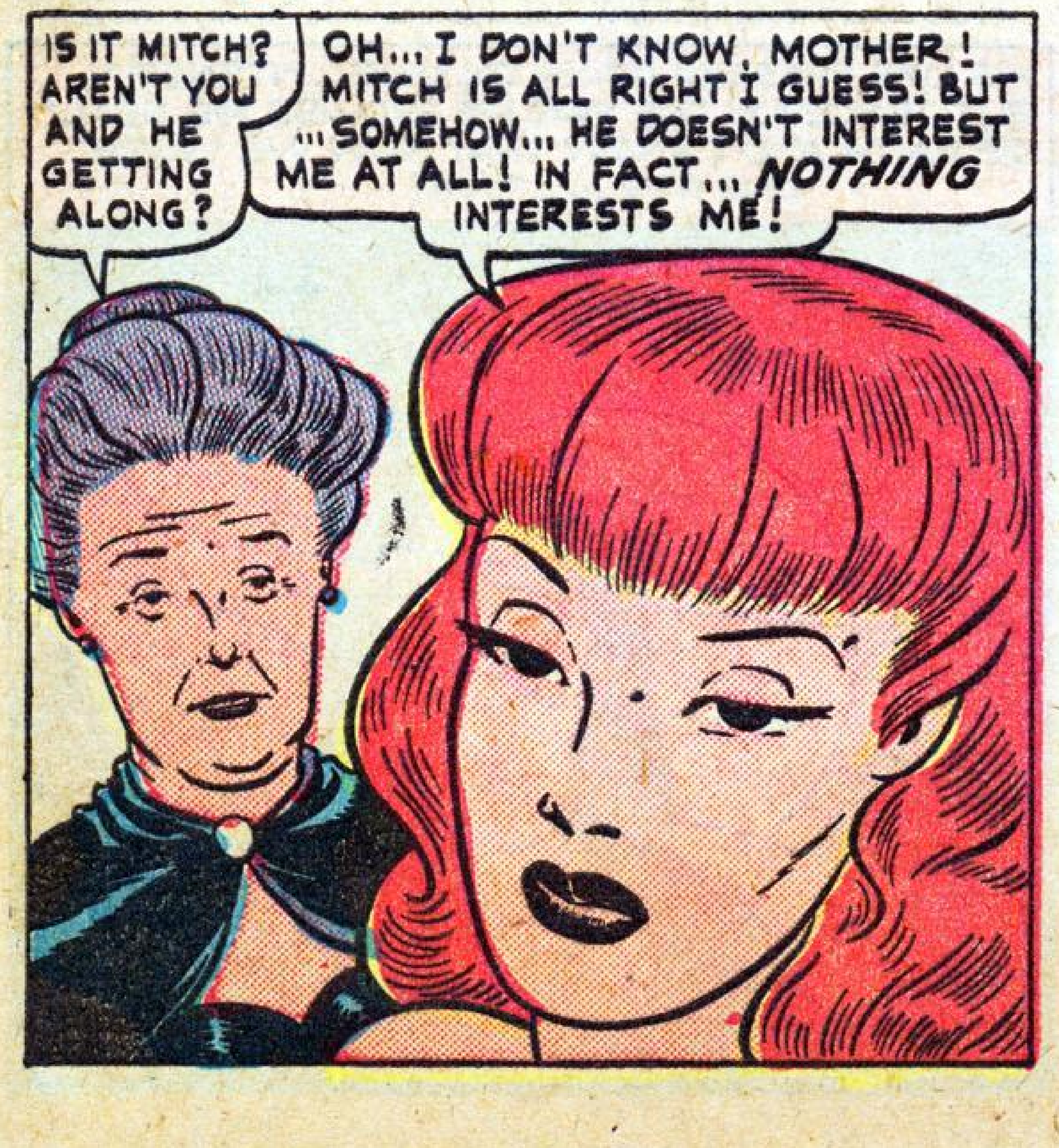
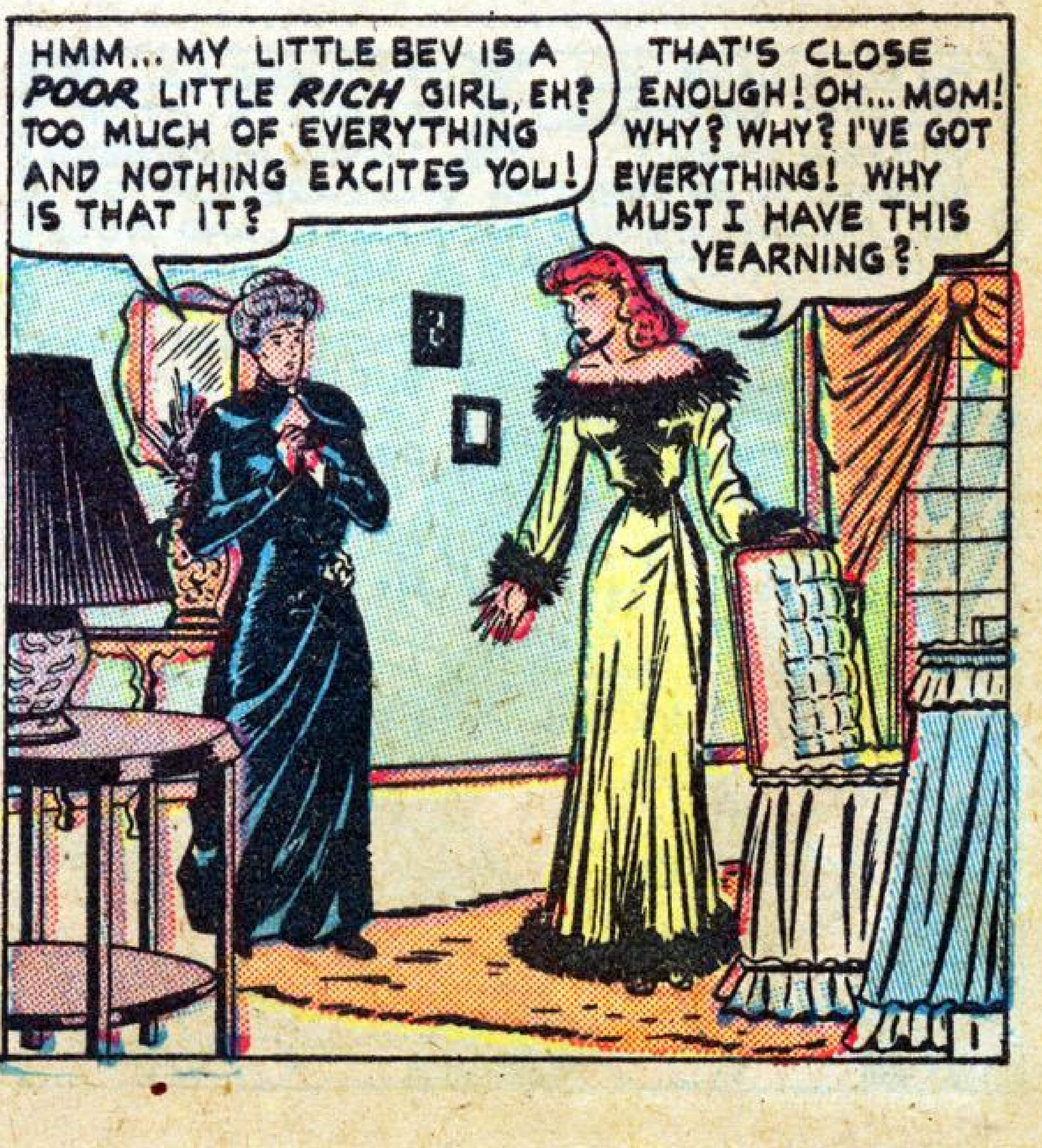
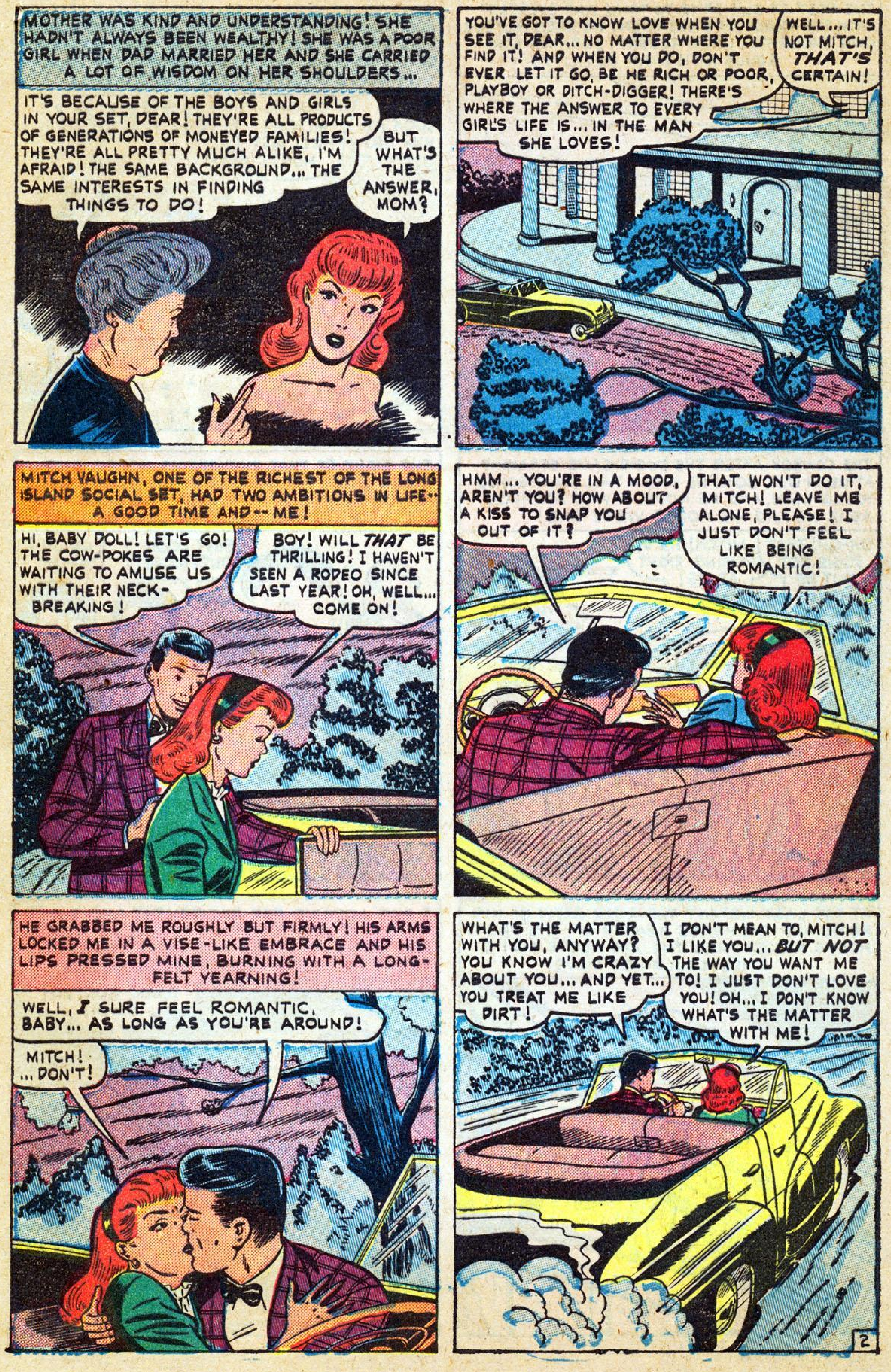
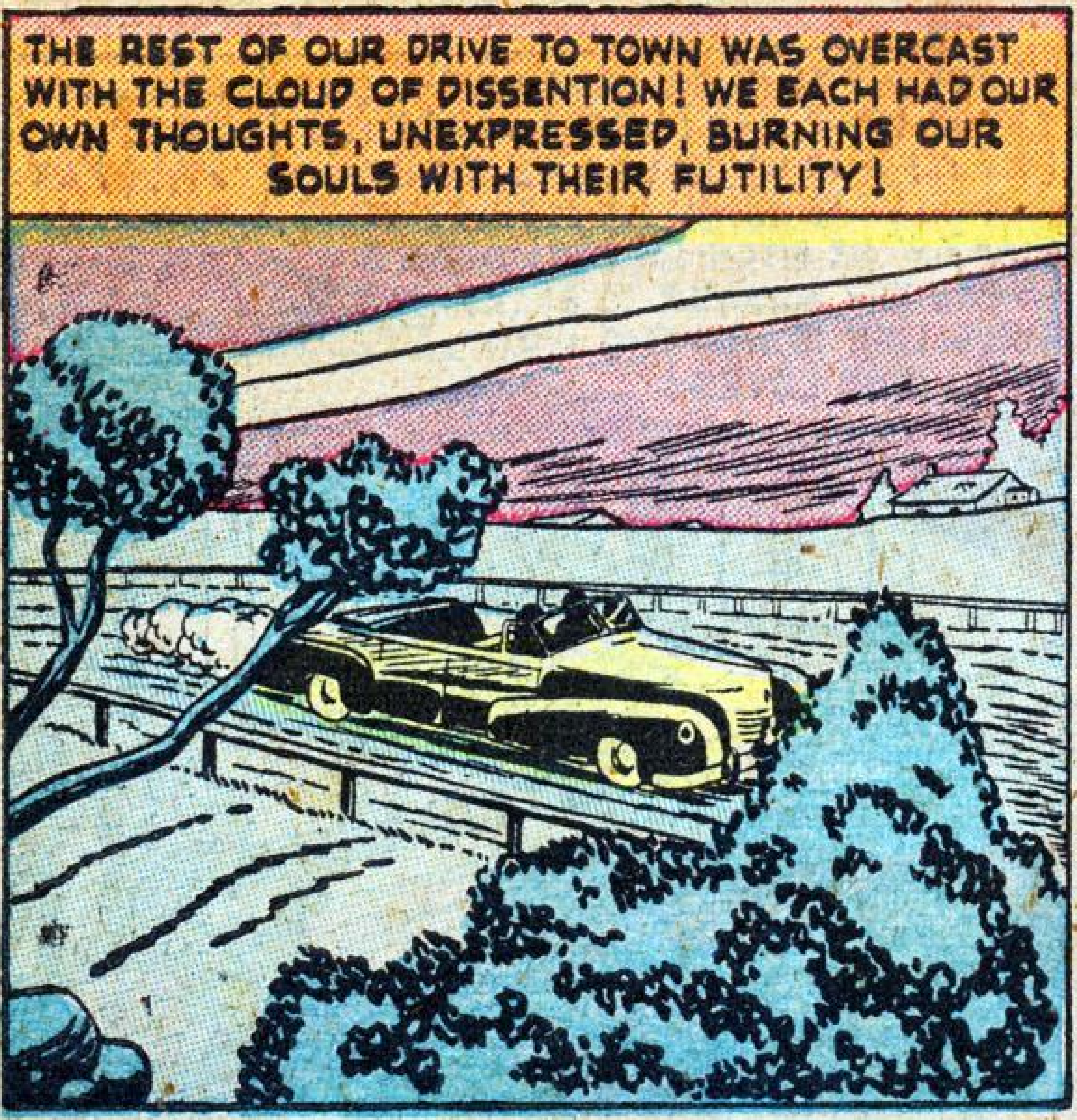

MY POSITION IN LIFE WAS ONE THAT MOST EVERY OTHER GIRL WOULD ENVY! THE THINGS YOU DREAM AND WISH FOR I HAD... IN ABUNDANCE! YOU SEE, I WAS BEVERLY MASON, RICH, YOUNG, AND MY MIRROR TOLD ME, BEAUTIFUL! YES, MINE WAS THE IDEAL LIFE--UNTIL...!
WHERE TONIGHT, BEV?
OH... HELLO, MOTHER! ANOTHER DAY... ANOTHER DATE!

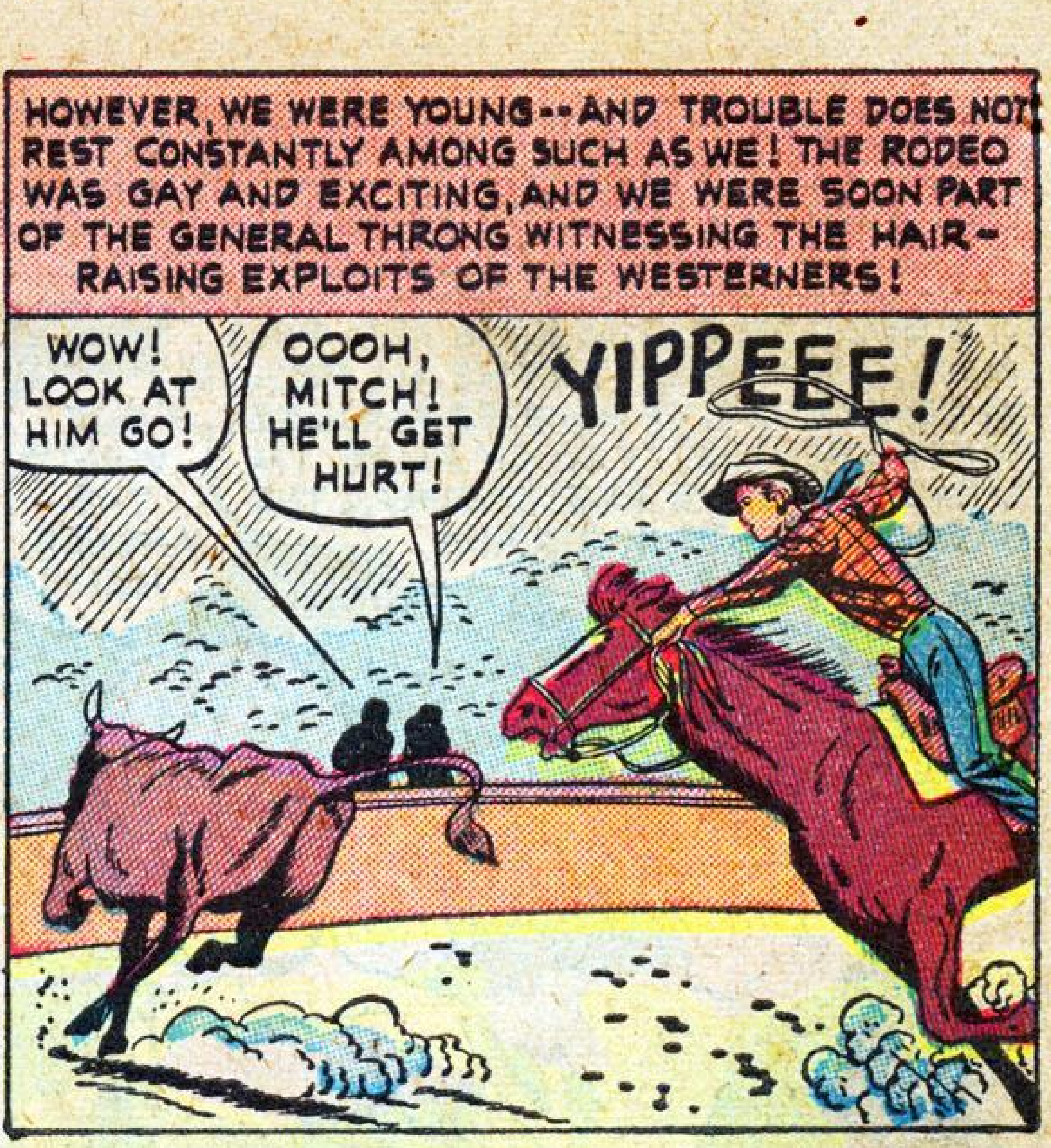

BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING LACKING--SOMEHOW MY LIFE WASN'T COMPLETE! THERE WAS A GAP SOMEPLACE LIKE A GREAT EMPTINESS!... AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS OR WHY!
MITCH IS TAKING ME TO TOWN TO SEE THE RODEO! OH HUM! ANOTHER DULL EVENING, I GUESS!
YOU DON'T SEEM YOURSELF LATELY!

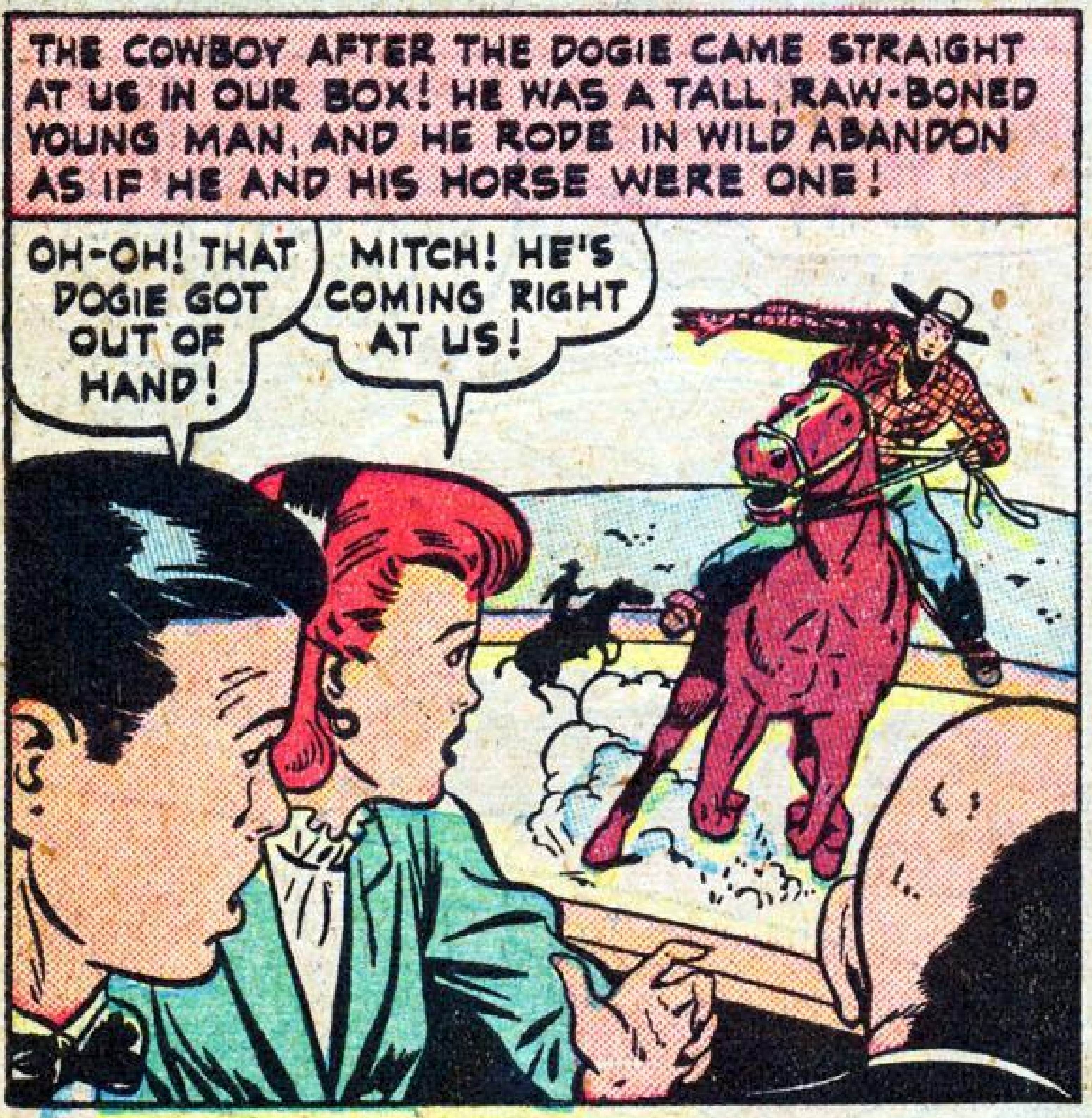

IS IT MITCH? AREN'T YOU AND HE GETTING ALONG?
OH... I DON'T KNOW, MOTHER! MITCH IS ALL RIGHT I GUESS! BUT ...SOMEHOW... HE DOESN'T INTEREST ME AT ALL! IN FACT... NOTHING INTERESTS ME!

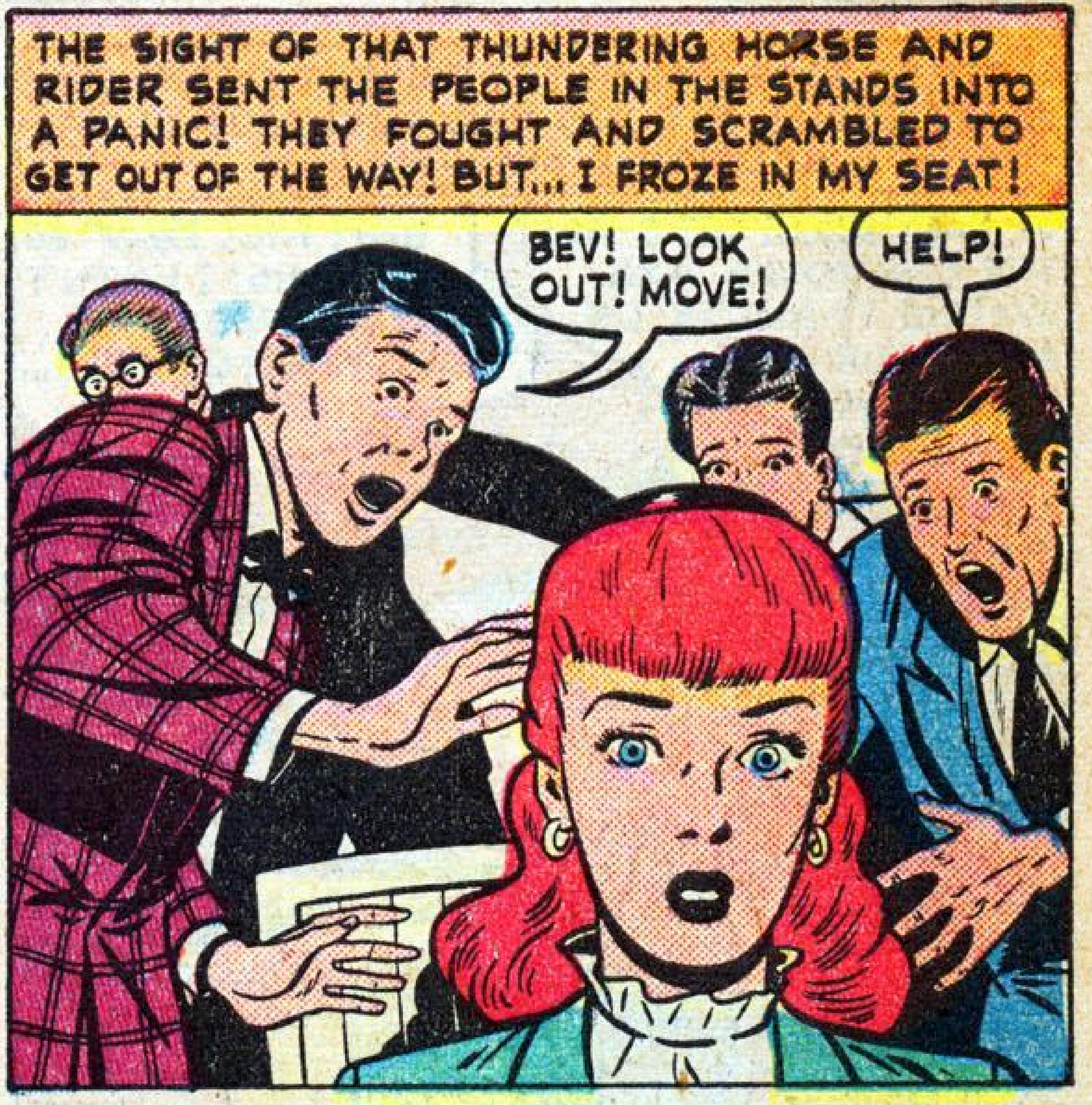

HMM... MY LITTLE BEV IS A POOR LITTLE RICH GIRL, EH? TOO MUCH OF EVERYTHING AND NOTHING EXCITES YOU! IS THAT IT?
THAT'S CLOSE ENOUGH! OH... MOM! WHY? WHY? I'VE GOT EVERYTHING! WHY MUST I HAVE THIS YEARNING?

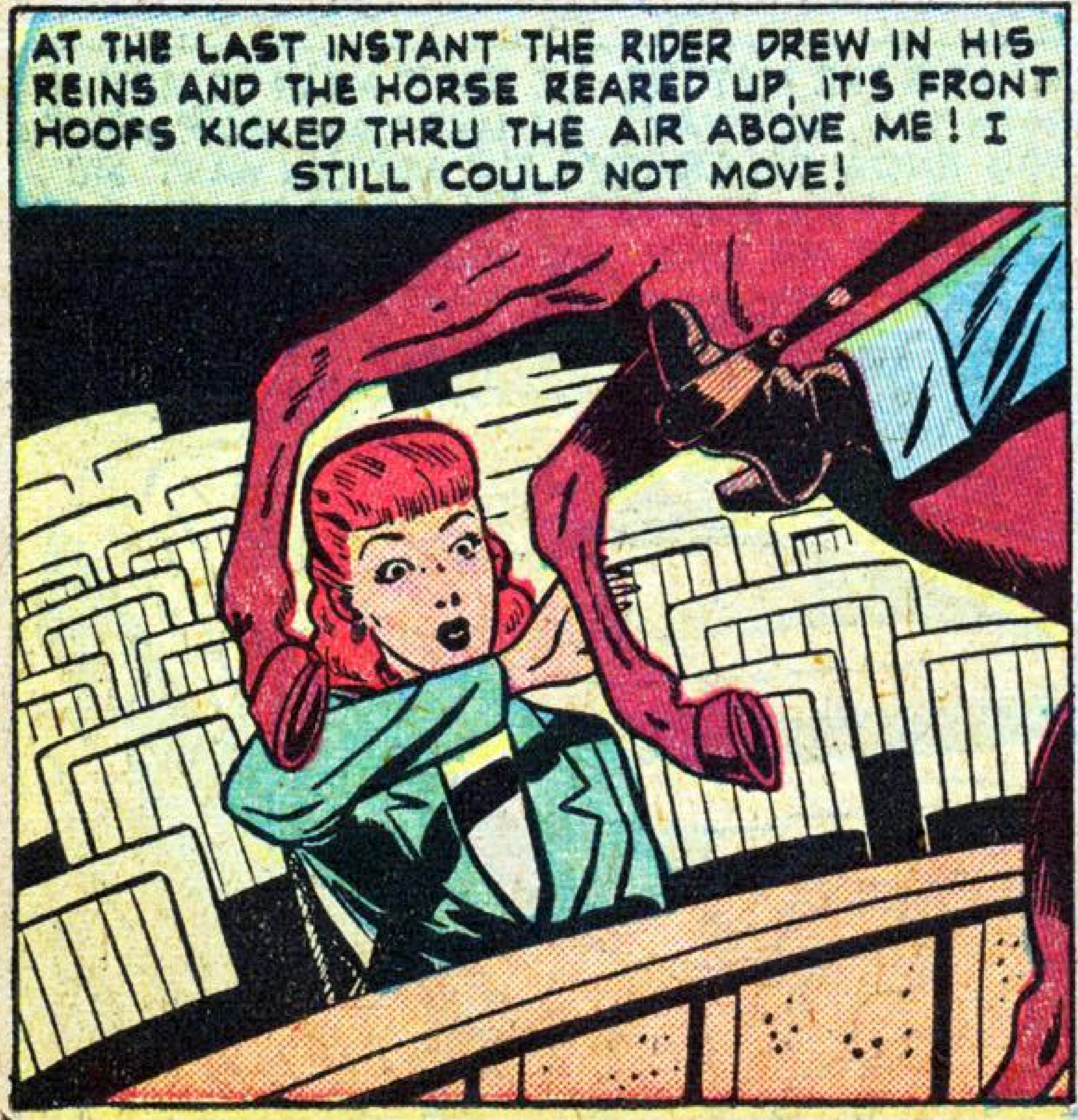

MOTHER WAS KIND AND UNDERSTANDING! SHE HADN'T ALWAYS BEEN WEALTHY! SHE WAS A POOR GIRL WHEN DAD MARRIED HER AND SHE CARRIED A LOT OF WISDOM ON HER SHOULDERS...
IT'S BECAUSE OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS IN YOUR SET, DEAR! THEY'RE ALL PRODUCTS OF GENERATIONS OF MONEYED FAMILIES! THEY'RE ALL PRETTY MUCH ALIKE, I'M AFRAID! THE SAME BACKGROUND... THE SAME INTERESTS IN FINDING THINGS TO DO!
BUT WHAT'S THE ANSWER, MOM?
YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW LOVE WHEN YOU SEE IT, DEAR... NO MATTER WHERE YOU FIND IT! AND WHEN YOU DO, DON'T EVER LET IT GO, BE HE RICH OR POOR, PLAYBOY OR DITCH-DIGGER! THERE'S WHERE THE ANSWER TO EVERY GIRL'S LIFE IS... IN THE MAN SHE LOVES!
WELL... IT'S NOT MITCH, *THAT'S* CERTAIN!
MITCH VAUGHN, ONE OF THE RICHEST OF THE LONG ISLAND SOCIAL SET, HAD TWO AMBITIONS IN LIFE-- A GOOD TIME AND -- ME!
HI, BABY DOLL! LET'S GO! THE COW-POKES ARE WAITING TO AMUSE US WITH THEIR NECK-BREAKING!
BOY! WILL *THAT* BE THRILLING! I HAVEN'T SEEN A RODEO SINCE LAST YEAR! OH, WELL... COME ON!
HMM... YOU'RE IN A MOOD, AREN'T YOU? HOW ABOUT A KISS TO SNAP YOU OUT OF IT?
THAT WON'T DO IT, MITCH! LEAVE ME ALONE, PLEASE! I JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE BEING ROMANTIC!
HE GRABBED ME ROUGHLY BUT FIRMLY! HIS ARMS LOCKED ME IN A VISE-LIKE EMBRACE AND HIS LIPS PRESSED MINE, BURNING WITH A LONG-FELT YEARNING!
WELL, *I* SURE FEEL ROMANTIC, BABY... AS LONG AS YOU'RE AROUND!
MITCH! ... DON'T!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, ANYWAY? YOU KNOW I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU... AND YET... YOU TREAT ME LIKE DIRT!
I DON'T MEAN TO, MITCH! I LIKE YOU... *BUT NOT* THE WAY YOU WANT ME TO! I JUST DON'T LOVE YOU! OH... I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME!

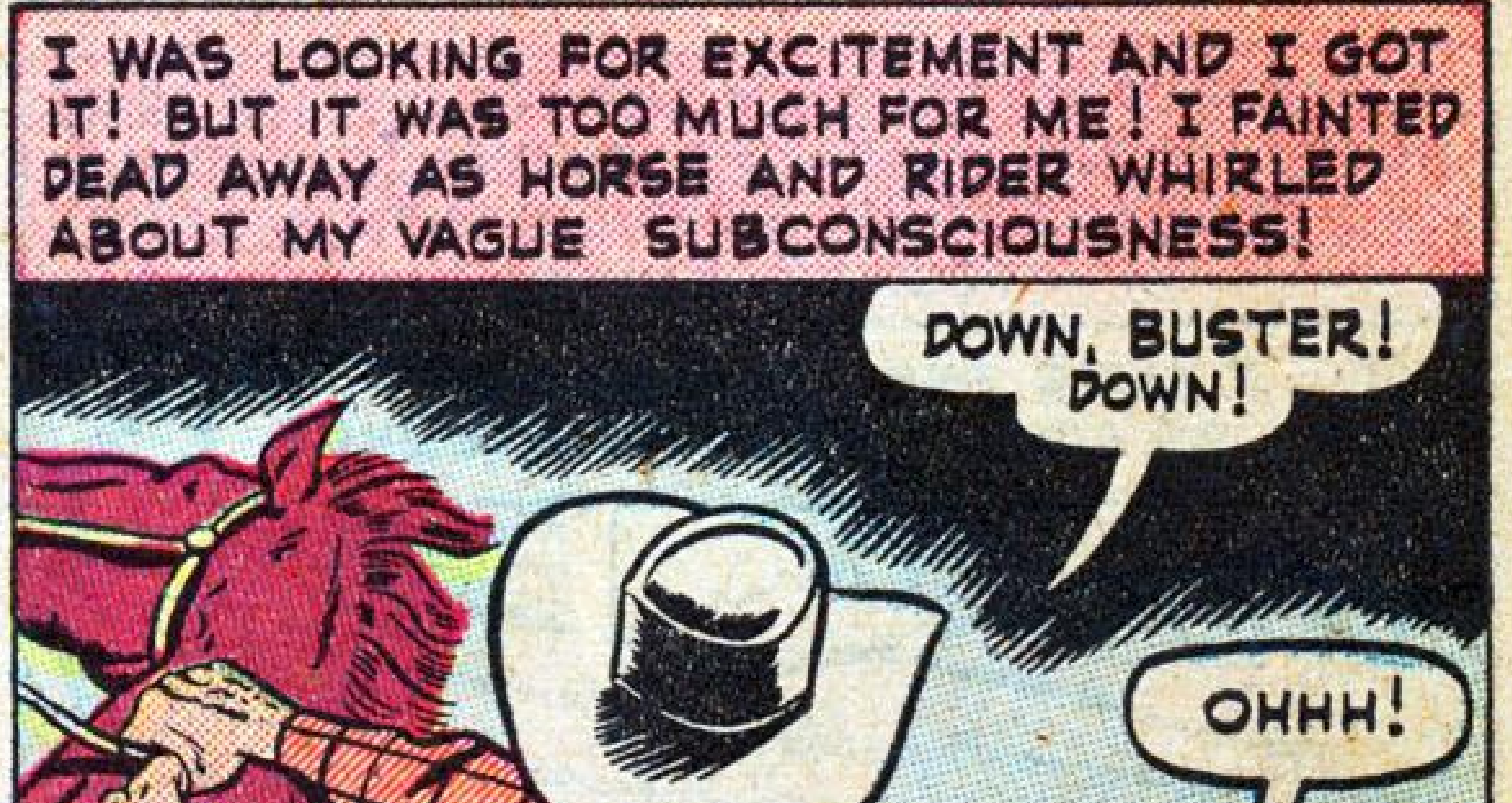

THE REST OF OUR DRIVE TO TOWN WAS OVERCAST WITH THE CLOUD OF DISSENTION! WE EACH HAD OUR OWN THOUGHTS, UNEXPRESSED, BURNING OUR SOULS WITH THEIR FUTILITY!

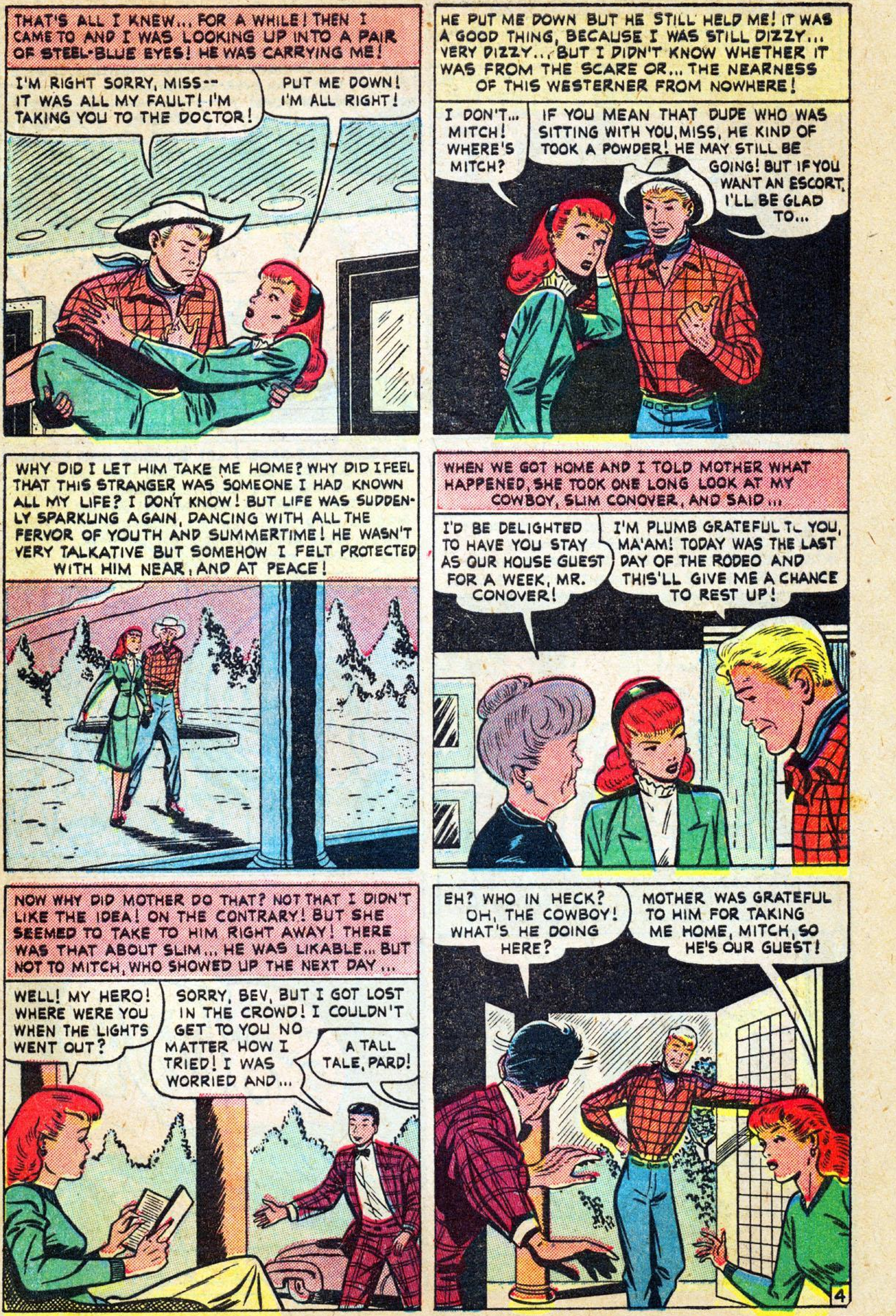

HOWEVER, WE WERE YOUNG--AND TROUBLE DOES NOT REST CONSTANTLY AMONG SUCH AS WE! THE RODEO WAS GAY AND EXCITING, AND WE WERE SOON PART OF THE GENERAL THRONG WITNESSING THE HAIR-RAISING EXPLOITS OF THE WESTERNERS!
WOW! LOOK AT HIM GO!
OOOH, MITCH! HE'LL GET HURT!
YIPPEEE!

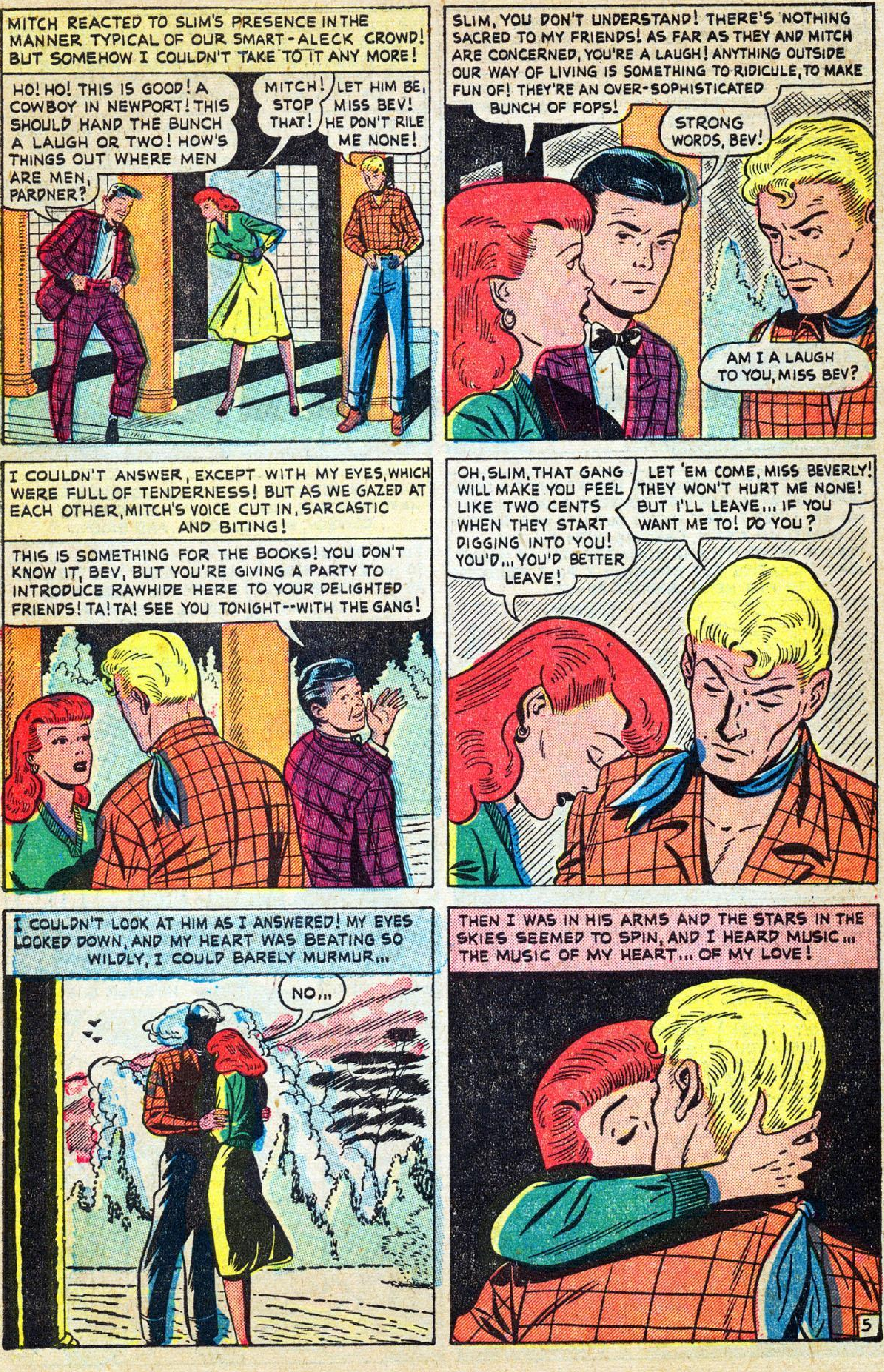

THE COWBOY AFTER THE DOGIE CAME STRAIGHT AT US IN OUR BOX! HE WAS A TALL, RAW-BONED YOUNG MAN, AND HE RODE IN WILD ABANDON AS IF HE AND HIS HORSE WERE ONE!
OH-OH! THAT DOGIE GOT OUT OF HAND!
MITCH! HE'S COMING RIGHT AT US!

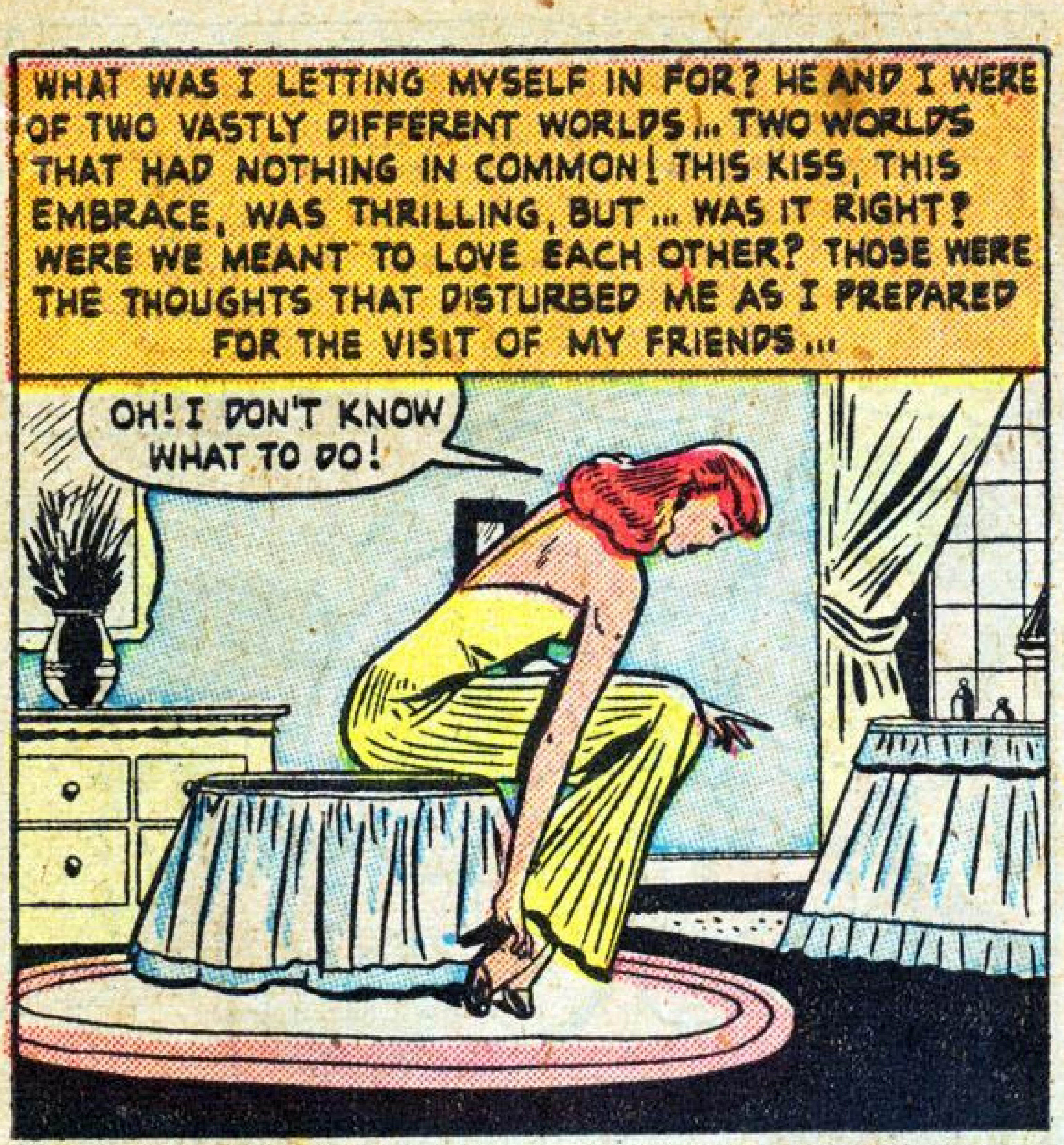

THE SIGHT OF THAT THUNDERING HORSE AND RIDER SENT THE PEOPLE IN THE STANDS INTO A PANIC! THEY FOUGHT AND SCRAMBLED TO GET OUT OF THE WAY! BUT... I FROZE IN MY SEAT!
BEV! LOOK OUT! MOVE!
HELP!

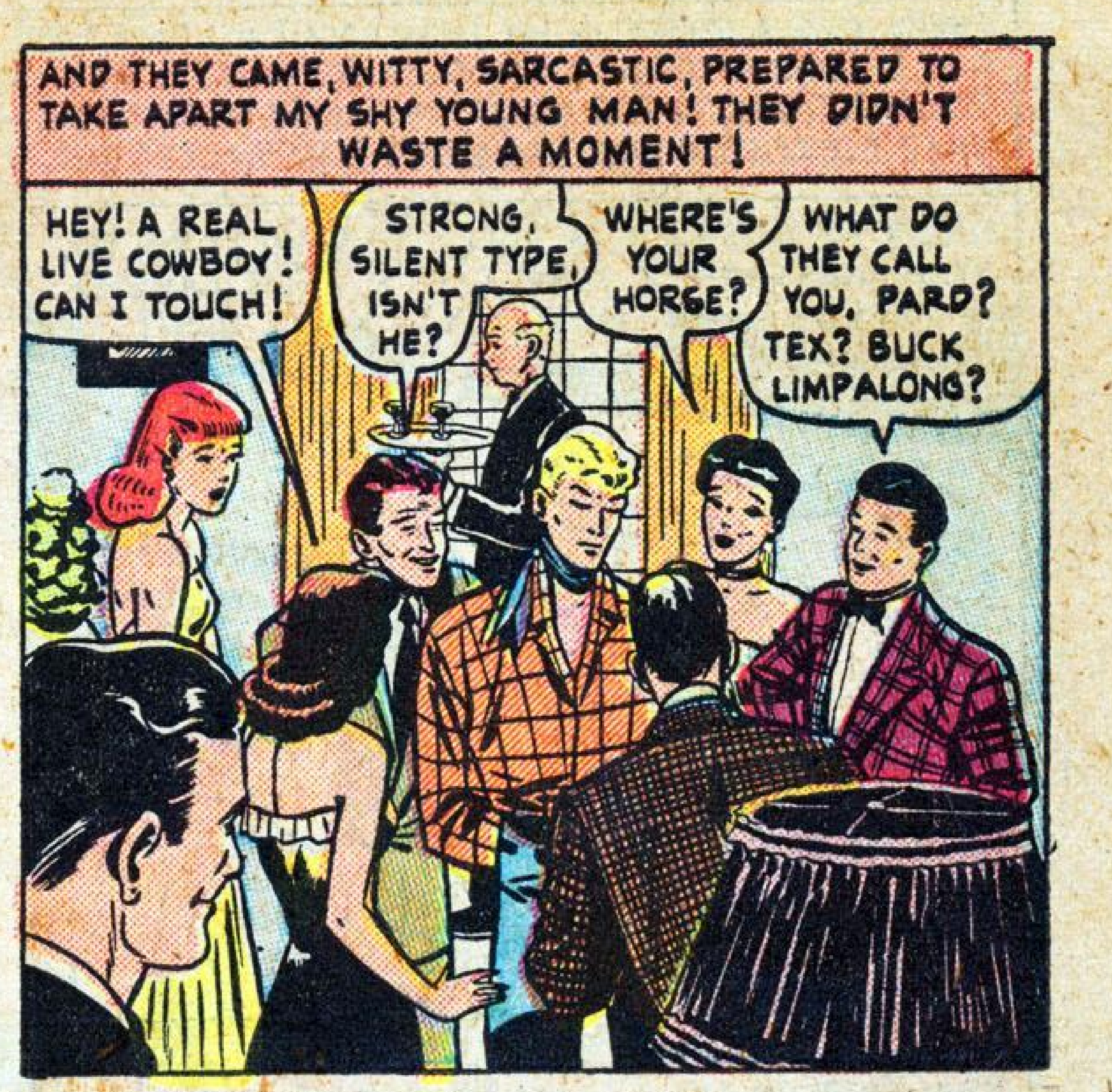

AT THE LAST INSTANT THE RIDER DREW IN HIS REINS AND THE HORSE REARED UP, IT'S FRONT HOOFS KICKED THRU THE AIR ABOVE ME! I STILL COULD NOT MOVE!

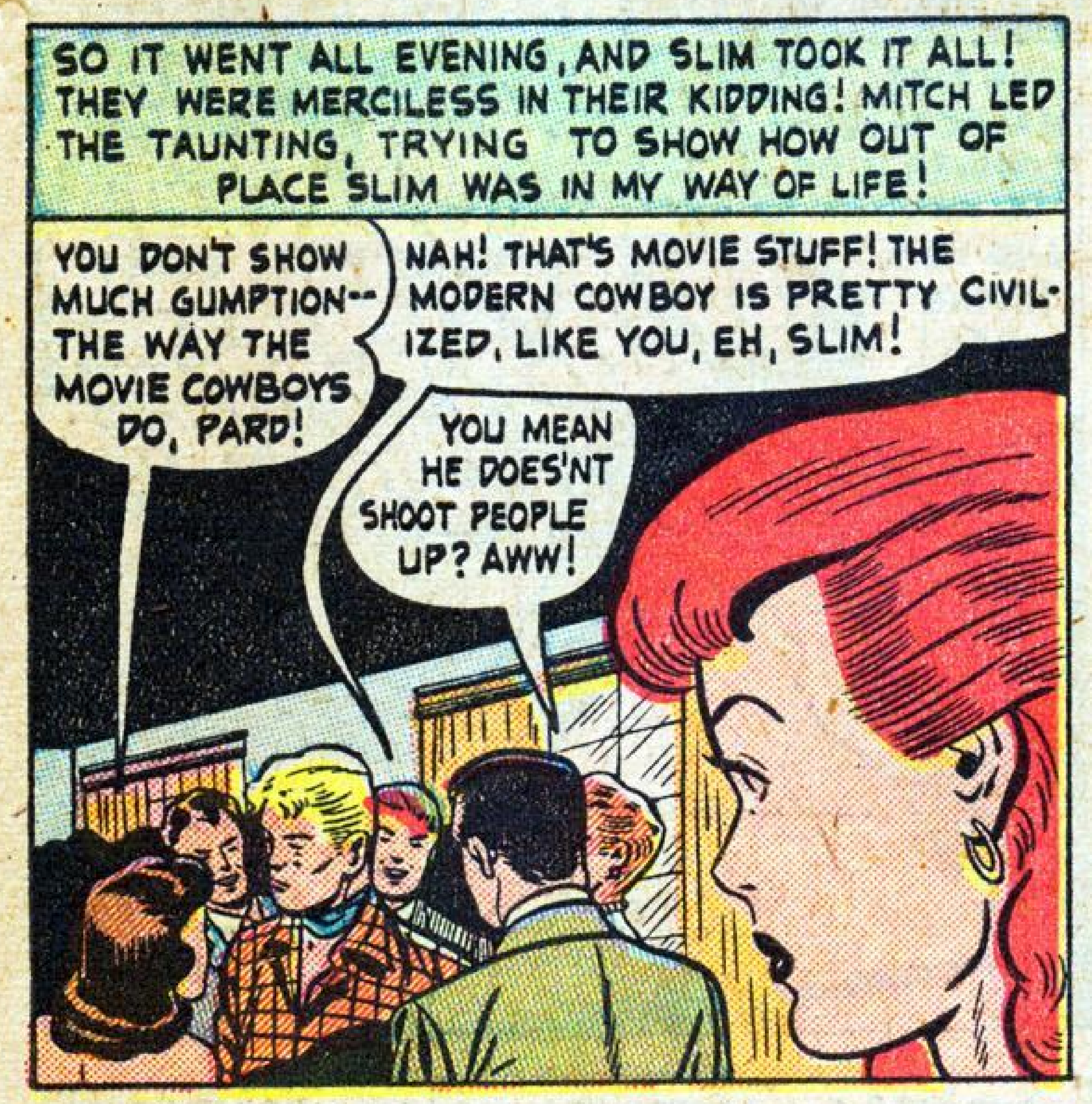

I WAS LOOKING FOR EXCITEMENT AND I GOT IT! BUT IT WAS TOO MUCH FOR ME! I FAINTED DEAD AWAY AS HORSE AND RIDER WHIRLED ABOUT MY VAGUE SUBCONSCIOUSNESS!
DOWN, BUSTER! DOWN!
OHHH!

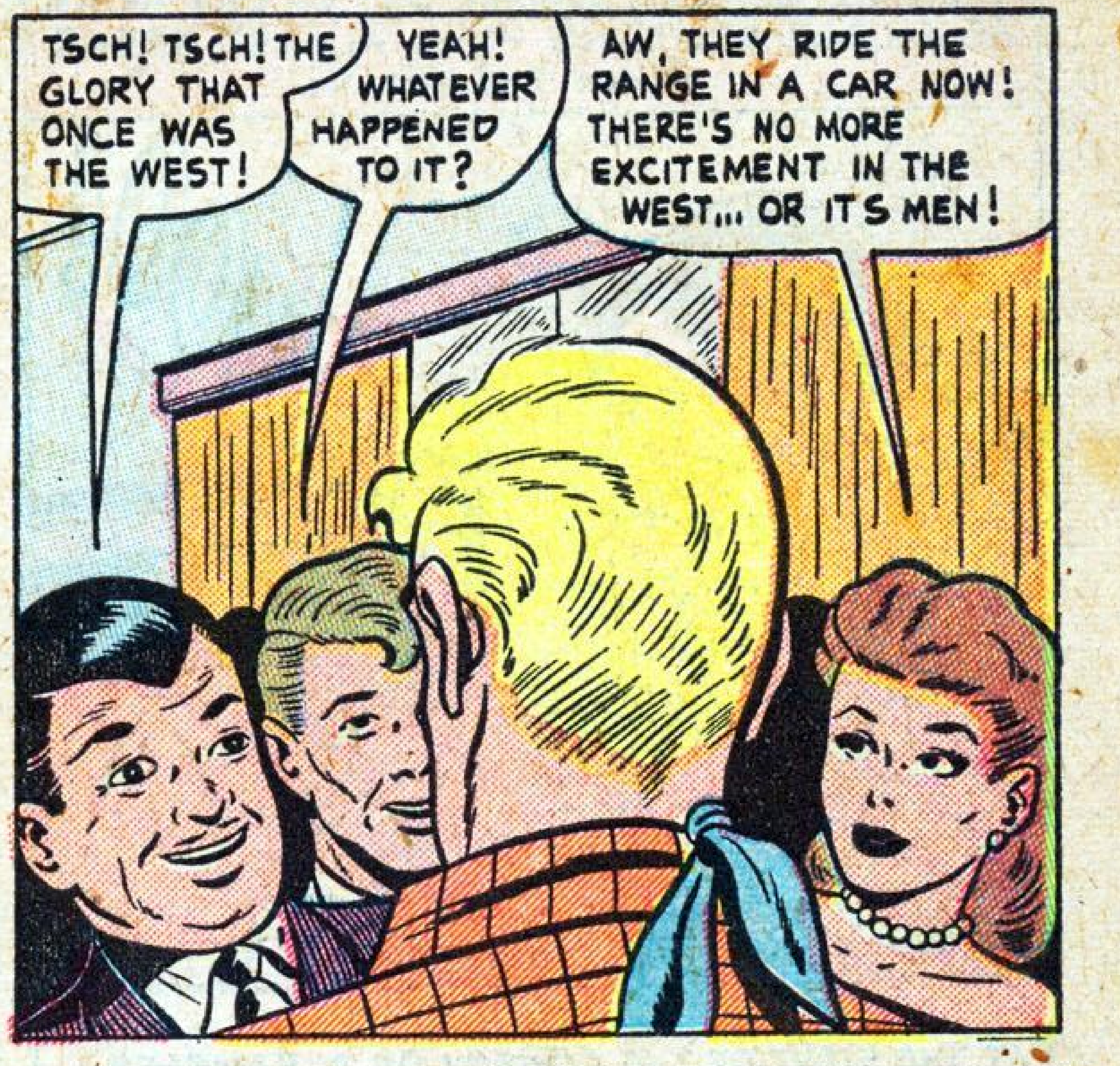

THAT'S ALL I KNEW... FOR A WHILE! THEN I CAME TO AND I WAS LOOKING UP INTO A PAIR OF STEEL-BLUE EYES! HE WAS CARRYING ME!
I'M RIGHT SORRY, MISS-- IT WAS ALL MY FAULT! I'M TAKING YOU TO THE DOCTOR!
PUT ME DOWN! I'M ALL RIGHT!
HE PUT ME DOWN BUT HE STILL HELD ME! IT WAS A GOOD THING, BECAUSE I WAS STILL DIZZY... VERY DIZZY... BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER IT WAS FROM THE SCARE OR... THE NEARNESS OF THIS WESTERNER FROM NOWHERE!
I DON'T... MITCH! WHERE'S MITCH?
IF YOU MEAN THAT DUDE WHO WAS SITTING WITH YOU, MISS, HE KIND OF TOOK A POWDER! HE MAY STILL BE GOING! BUT IF YOU WANT AN ESCORT, I'LL BE GLAD TO...
WHY DID I LET HIM TAKE ME HOME? WHY DID I FEEL THAT THIS STRANGER WAS SOMEONE I HAD KNOWN ALL MY LIFE? I DON'T KNOW! BUT LIFE WAS SUDDENLY SPARKLING AGAIN, DANCING WITH ALL THE FERVOR OF YOUTH AND SUMMERTIME! HE WASN'T VERY TALKATIVE BUT SOMEHOW I FELT PROTECTED WITH HIM NEAR, AND AT PEACE!
WHEN WE GOT HOME AND I TOLD MOTHER WHAT HAPPENED, SHE TOOK ONE LONG LOOK AT MY COWBOY, SLIM CONOVER, AND SAID...
I'D BE DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU STAY AS OUR HOUSE GUEST FOR A WEEK, MR. CONOVER!
I'M PLUMB GRATEFUL TO YOU, MA'AM! TODAY WAS THE LAST DAY OF THE RODEO AND THIS'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO REST UP!
NOW WHY DID MOTHER DO THAT? NOT THAT I DIDN'T LIKE THE IDEA! ON THE CONTRARY! BUT SHE SEEMED TO TAKE TO HIM RIGHT AWAY! THERE WAS THAT ABOUT SLIM... HE WAS LIKABLE... BUT NOT TO MITCH, WHO SHOWED UP THE NEXT DAY...
WELL! MY HERO! WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT?
SORRY, BEV, BUT I GOT LOST IN THE CROWD! I COULDN'T GET TO YOU NO MATTER HOW I TRIED! I WAS WORRIED AND...
A TALL TALE, PARD!
EH? WHO IN HECK? OH, THE COWBOY! WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
MOTHER WAS GRATEFUL TO HIM FOR TAKING ME HOME, MITCH, SO HE'S OUR GUEST!

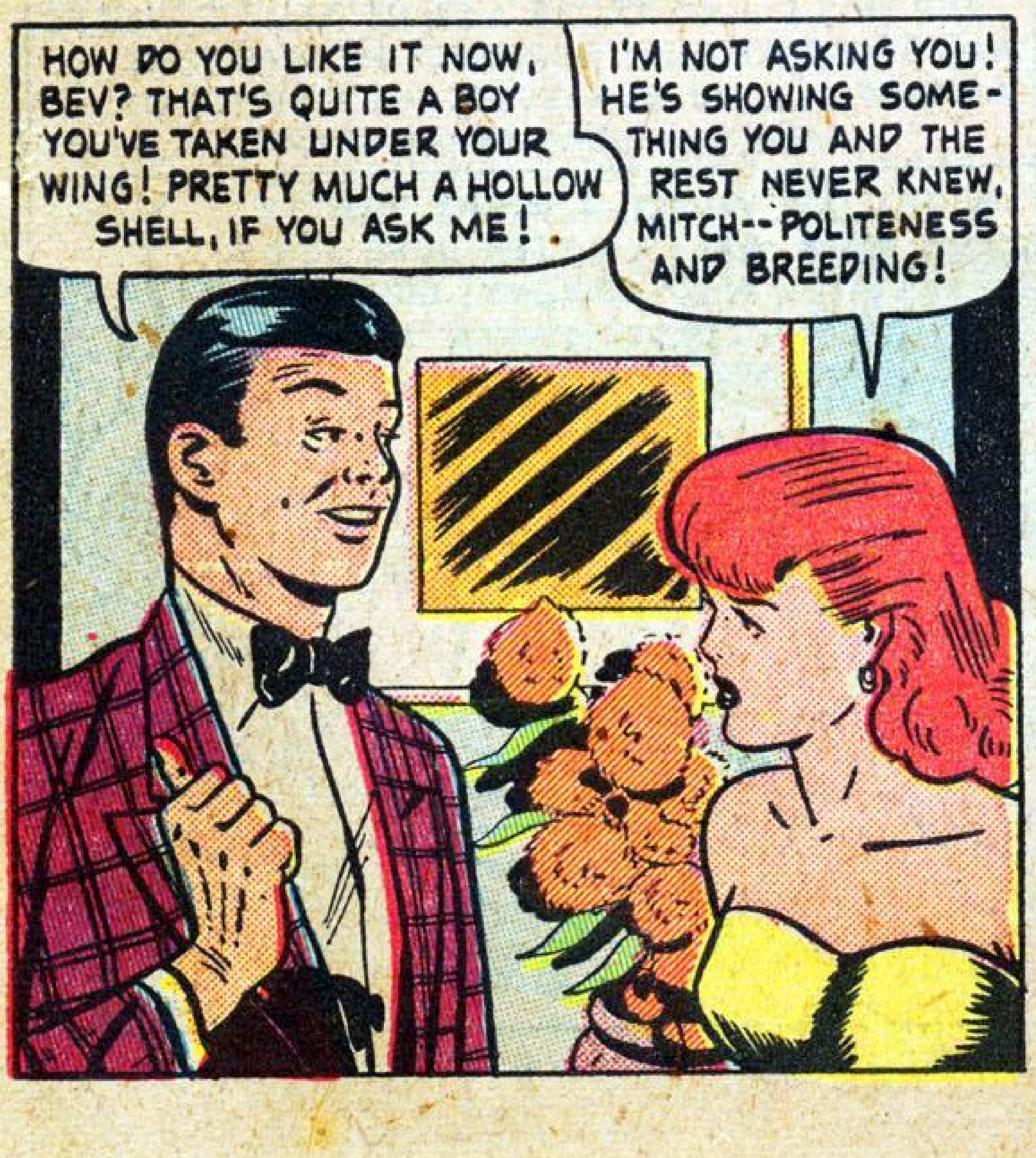

MITCH REACTED TO SLIM'S PRESENCE IN THE MANNER TYPICAL OF OUR SMART-ALECK CROWD! BUT SOMEHOW I COULDN'T TAKE TO IT ANY MORE!
HO! HO! THIS IS GOOD! A COWBOY IN NEWPORT! THIS SHOULD HAND THE BUNCH A LAUGH OR TWO! HOW'S THINGS OUT WHERE MEN ARE MEN, PARDNER?
MITCH! STOP THAT!
LET HIM BE, MISS BEV! HE DON'T RILE ME NONE!
SLIM, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! THERE'S NOTHING SACRED TO MY FRIENDS! AS FAR AS THEY AND MITCH ARE CONCERNED, YOU'RE A LAUGH! ANYTHING OUTSIDE OUR WAY OF LIVING IS SOMETHING TO RIDICULE, TO MAKE FUN OF! THEY'RE AN OVER-SOPHISTICATED BUNCH OF FOPS!
STRONG WORDS, BEV!
AM I A LAUGH TO YOU, MISS BEV?
I COULDN'T ANSWER, EXCEPT WITH MY EYES, WHICH WERE FULL OF TENDERNESS! BUT AS WE GAZED AT EACH OTHER, MITCH'S VOICE CUT IN, SARCASTIC AND BITING!
THIS IS SOMETHING FOR THE BOOKS! YOU DON'T KNOW IT, BEV, BUT YOU'RE GIVING A PARTY TO INTRODUCE RAWHIDE HERE TO YOUR DELIGHTED FRIENDS! TA! TA! SEE YOU TONIGHT--WITH THE GANG!
OH, SLIM, THAT GANG WILL MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE TWO CENTS WHEN THEY START DIGGING INTO YOU! YOU'D... YOU'D BETTER LEAVE!
LET 'EM COME, MISS BEVERLY! THEY WON'T HURT ME NONE! BUT I'LL LEAVE... IF YOU WANT ME TO! DO YOU?
I COULDN'T LOOK AT HIM AS I ANSWERED! MY EYES LOOKED DOWN, AND MY HEART WAS BEATING SO WILDLY, I COULD BARELY MURMUR...
NO...
THEN I WAS IN HIS ARMS AND THE STARS IN THE SKIES SEEMED TO SPIN, AND I HEARD MUSIC... THE MUSIC OF MY HEART... OF MY LOVE!

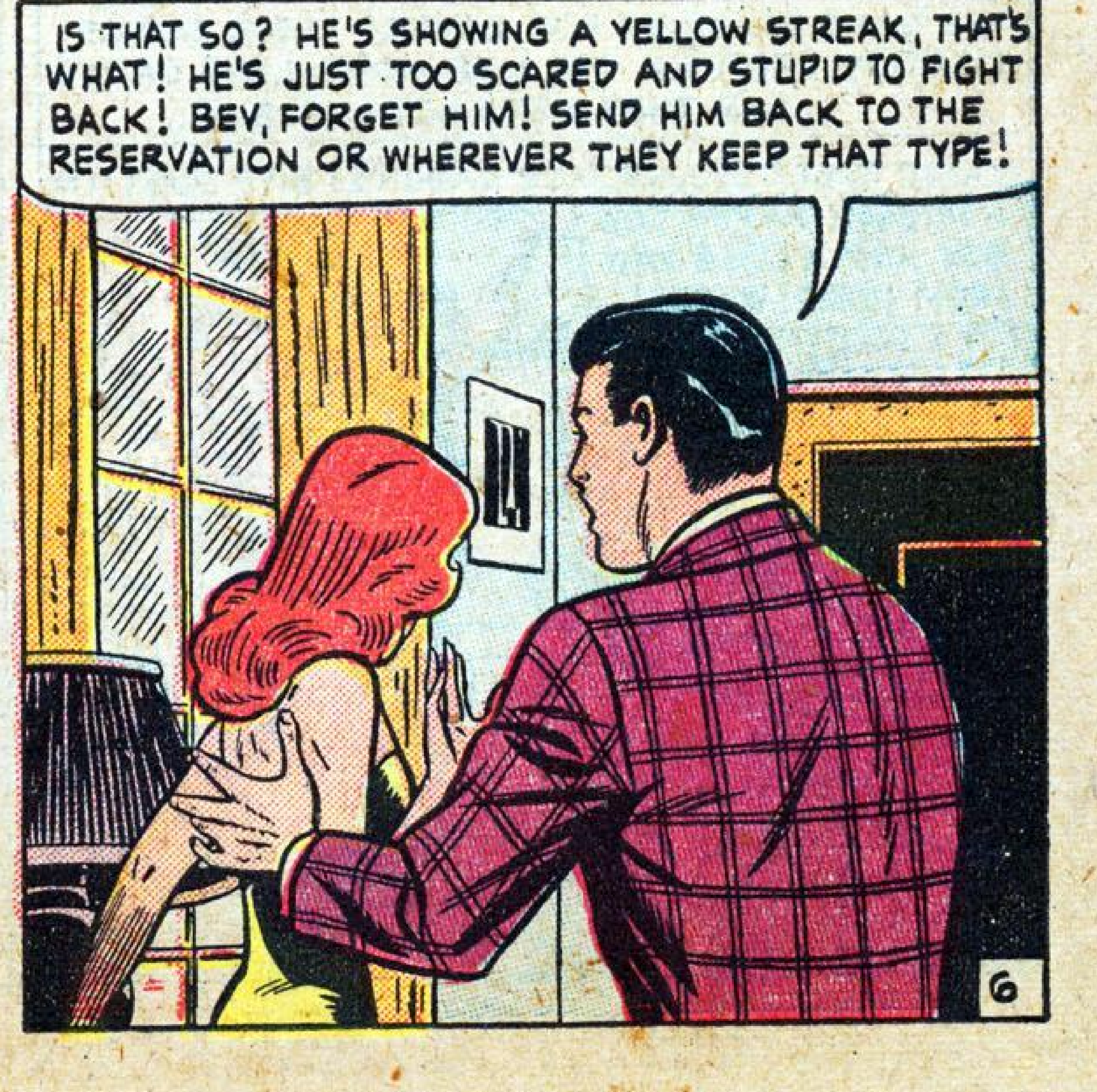

WHAT WAS I LETTING MYSELF IN FOR? HE AND I WERE OF TWO VASTLY DIFFERENT WORLDS... TWO WORLDS THAT HAD NOTHING IN COMMON! THIS KISS, THIS EMBRACE, WAS THRILLING, BUT... WAS IT RIGHT? WERE WE MEANT TO LOVE EACH OTHER? THOSE WERE THE THOUGHTS THAT DISTURBED ME AS I PREPARED FOR THE VISIT OF MY FRIENDS...
OH! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!

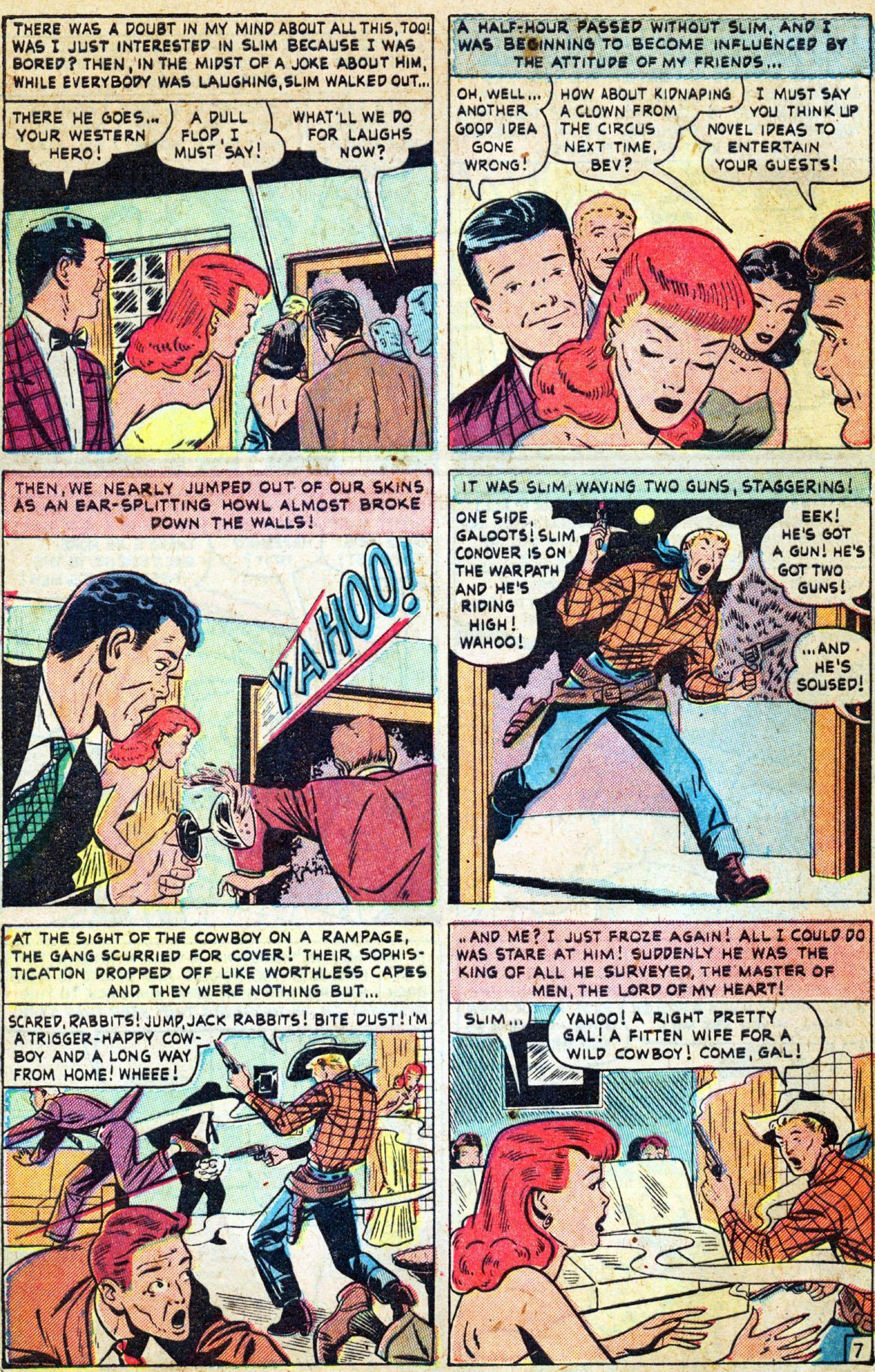

AND THEY CAME, WITTY, SARCASTIC, PREPARED TO TAKE APART MY SHY YOUNG MAN! THEY DIDN'T WASTE A MOMENT!
HEY! A REAL LIVE COWBOY! CAN I TOUCH!
STRONG, SILENT TYPE, ISN'T HE?
WHERE'S YOUR HORSE?
WHAT DO THEY CALL YOU, PARD? TEX? BUCK LIMPALONG?


SO IT WENT ALL EVENING, AND SLIM TOOK IT ALL! THEY WERE MERCILESS IN THEIR KIDDING! MITCH LED THE TAUNTING, TRYING TO SHOW HOW OUT OF PLACE SLIM WAS IN MY WAY OF LIFE!
YOU DON'T SHOW MUCH GUMPTION-- THE WAY THE MOVIE COWBOYS DO, PARD!
NAH! THAT'S MOVIE STUFF! THE MODERN COWBOY IS PRETTY CIVILIZED, LIKE YOU, EH, SLIM!
YOU MEAN HE DOES'NT SHOOT PEOPLE UP? AWW!


TSCH! TSCH! THE GLORY THAT ONCE WAS THE WEST!
YEAH! WHATEVER HAPPENED TO IT?
AW, THEY RIDE THE RANGE IN A CAR NOW! THERE'S NO MORE EXCITEMENT IN THE WEST... OR IT'S MEN!


HOW DO YOU LIKE IT NOW, BEV? THAT'S QUITE A BOY YOU'VE TAKEN UNDER YOUR WING! PRETTY MUCH A HOLLOW SHELL, IF YOU ASK ME!
I'M NOT ASKING YOU! HE'S SHOWING SOMETHING YOU AND THE REST NEVER KNEW, MITCH-- POLITENESS AND BREEDING!


IS THAT SO? HE'S SHOWING A YELLOW STREAK, THAT'S WHAT! HE'S JUST TOO SCARED AND STUPID TO FIGHT BACK! BEV, FORGET HIM! SEND HIM BACK TO THE RESERVATION OR WHEREVER THEY KEEP THAT TYPE!


THERE WAS A DOUBT IN MY MIND ABOUT ALL THIS, TOO! WAS I JUST INTERESTED IN SLIM BECAUSE I WAS BORED? THEN, IN THE MIDST OF A JOKE ABOUT HIM, WHILE EVERYBODY WAS LAUGHING, SLIM WALKED OUT...
THERE HE GOES... YOUR WESTERN HERO!
A DULL FLOP, I MUST SAY!
WHAT'LL WE DO FOR LAUGHS NOW?
A HALF-HOUR PASSED WITHOUT SLIM, AND I WAS BEGINNING TO BECOME INFLUENCED BY THE ATTITUDE OF MY FRIENDS...
OH, WELL... ANOTHER GOOD IDEA GONE WRONG!
HOW ABOUT KIDNAPING A CLOWN FROM THE CIRCUS NEXT TIME, BEV?
I MUST SAY YOU THINK UP NOVEL IDEAS TO ENTERTAIN YOUR GUESTS!
THEN, WE NEARLY JUMPED OUT OF OUR SKINS AS AN EAR-SPLITTING HOWL ALMOST BROKE DOWN THE WALLS!
YAHOO!
IT WAS SLIM, WAVING TWO GUNS, STAGGERING!
ONE SIDE, GALOOTS! SLIM CONOVER IS ON THE WARPATH AND HE'S RIDING HIGH! WAHOO!
EEK! HE'S GOT A GUN! HE'S GOT TWO GUNS!
...AND HE'S SOUSED!
AT THE SIGHT OF THE COWBOY ON A RAMPAGE, THE GANG SCURRIED FOR COVER! THEIR SOPHISTICATION DROPPED OFF LIKE WORTHLESS CAPES AND THEY WERE NOTHING BUT...
SCARED, RABBITS! JUMP, JACK RABBITS! BITE DUST! I'M A TRIGGER-HAPPY COWBOY AND A LONG WAY FROM HOME! WHEEE!
..AND ME? I JUST FROZE AGAIN! ALL I COULD DO WAS STARE AT HIM! SUDDENLY HE WAS THE KING OF ALL HE SURVEYED, THE MASTER OF MEN, THE LORD OF MY HEART!
SLIM...
YAHOO! A RIGHT PRETTY GAL! A FITTEN WIFE FOR A WILD COWBOY! COME, GAL!

MITCH HAD TAKEN TO COVER LIKE THE OTHERS, SO THERE WAS NOBODY TO STOP WHAT HAPPENED!
WHAT SLIM WANTS, HE TAKES! ANYBODY STOPPING ME?
HE HAD ONE OF MY HORSES SADDLED AND WAITING OUTSIDE AND HE SWUNG ONTO IT, WITH ME STILL IN HIS ARMS!
WANT A TASTE OF THE WILD WEST, EH? I HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED YET! COME ON, PONY! RIDE!
AND WE GALLOPED OFF, HIS ARMS HOLDING ME, MY HEART RACED FASTER THAN THE HORSE! BUT ...WHERE WOULD THIS END? THEN... HE SPOKE...
THIS IS THE END OF THE TRAIL FOR YOU AND ME, MISS BEVERLY!
WHAT? THE... THE END OF... THE TRAIL?
YES! AND I'M SORRY FOR ALL THAT HAPPENED BECAUSE IT WAS MY FAULT! I PURPOSELY RODE AT YOU AT THE RODEO! I WANTED TO MEET YOU! BUT I GUESS YOU COULDN'T HANKER FOR A GALOOT LIKE ME-- NOT WITH THE LIFE YOU'VE KNOWN! BUT I HAD TO SHOW YOUR FRIENDS THE WEST STILL BREEDS MEN! NOW YOU CAN GET OFF WHILE I RIDE TO THE STATION!
BUT I DIDN'T GET OFF! INSTEAD MY GRIP AROUND HIS NECK TIGHTENED AND I BROUGHT MY LIPS UP TO HIS, CLOSE, VERY CLOSE!
NO YOU DON'T, SLIM! YOU SEE, I EGGED THE GANG ON IN ORDER TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOU... AND...
YOU FOUND OUT ONE THING, HONEY! I LOVE YOU LIKE MAD!
I GUESS SLIM NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT HIM! WHO WAS FOOLING WHOM? BUT WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? I FOUND THE ANSWER TO EVERYTHING! I FOUND THE MAN I LOVED AND I'LL NEVER LET HIM GO!
THE END

Get this SAF-T-SHEATH HUNTING KNIFE

GENUINE TOOL-STEEL

Made of superb, super-hardened steel—ideal for the woodsman, amateur or professional—Over a thousand uses...cuts cold rolled steel ...Nationally advertised and guaranteed with new type SAF-T-SHEATH folding handle.

Sturdy—handy—excellent for picnics, camping, fishing, hunting, building huts, cabins, rafts and models.

CUTS COLD ROLLED STEEL
HUNTING and FISHING BRINGS THE SPORTSMAN WHAT HE WANTS TO KNOW ON... "HOW TO..."

... tie fishing flies ... fish with spinning tackle ... make a split bamboo rod ... load and safely operate various firearms ... identify foreign and domestic guns and cartridges ... adjust sights ... keep equipment in top notch shape.

HUNTING FISHING
Send my gift(s) to me at the following address

MY NAME IS........
MY ADDRESS........
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$1.00 COUPON $1.00

This coupon, filled out and mailed with $2 entitles person named below to 18 ISSUES OF HUNTING AND FISHING MAGAZINE. A $3 value for just $2.

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Mail coupon and money to:
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Mail coupon and money to:
HUNTING AND FISHING, 750 Sportsman's Bldg., Boston 16, Mass.

OR; FOR THREE COUPONS
we'll send you
THE MARINE CORPS KNIFE
AND THE SUN GLASSES

OR; FOR FOUR OR FIVE COUPONS
we'll send you
THE GENUINE SAF-T-SHEATH
HUNTING KNIFE

OR; FOR ALL SIX COUPONS
we'll send you
ALL THREE BIG GIFTS—
THE MARINE CORPS KNIFE,
THE AIR FORCE TYPE
SUN GLASSES, AND
THE SAF-T-SHEATH KNIFE.

YOUR GIFTS WILL BE SENT YOU
WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER WE RECEIVE
YOUR COUPON-SUBSCRIPTIONS

HUNTING AND FISHING MAGAZINE — TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SEE BACK PAGE

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Mail coupon and money to:
HUNTING AND FISHING, 750 Sportsman's Bldg., Boston 16, Mass.

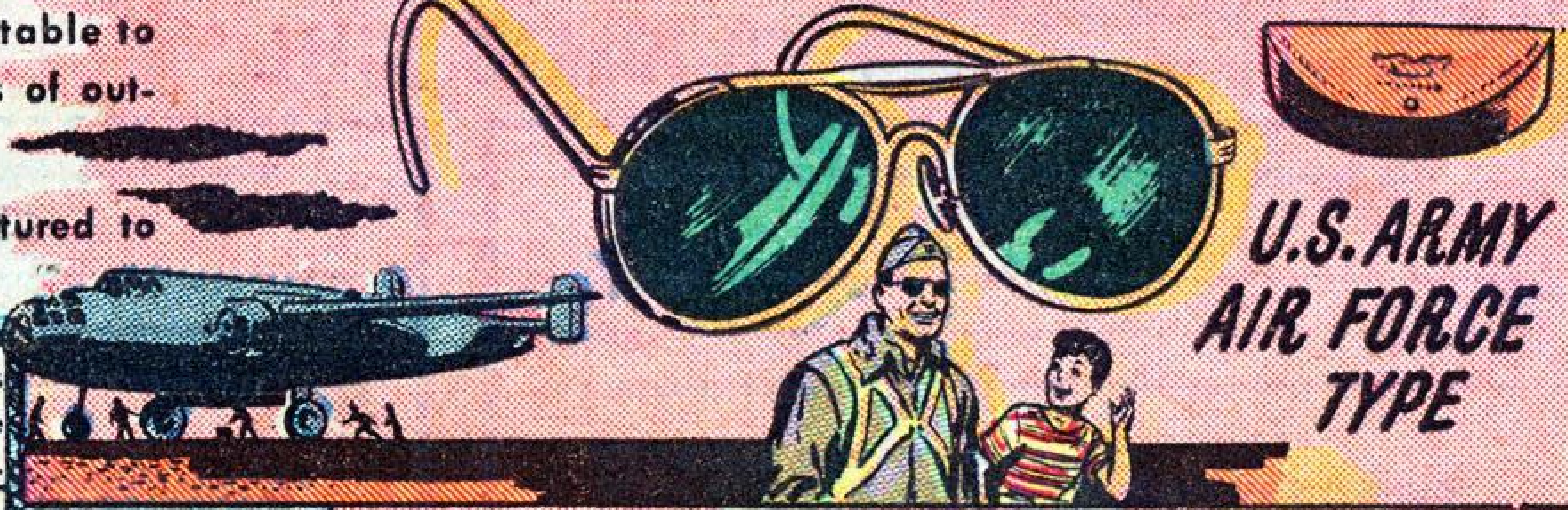
"NAVIGATOR" MILIT-AIR SUN GLASSES

Maximum protection for your eyes against harmful ultra-violet and infra-red rays. High "chromoptic" absorption. Action-tested. Comfortable to wear. Excellent for all kinds of outdoor activity.

A quality product, manufactured to exacting standards.

GUARANTEE

"NAVIGATOR"—Milit-aire sun glasses are guaranteed. A written guarantee comes to you with each pair. This guarantee is good for LIFE.



U.S. ARMY AIR FORCE TYPE

HUNTING *and* FISHING GIVES THE LATEST "DOPE" EVERY MONTH ON

YOU CAN USE THESE SUN GLASSES EVERYWHERE!
ELIMINATES WATER GLARE!
PROTECTS YOUR EYES FROM ICE GLARE!
PREVENTS SAND GLARE!

"WHERE TO" . . . go for the best sport . . . get out-of-state licenses . . . buy new equipment for less . . . have worn or damaged equipment repaired (or how to do it yourself) . . . find out about camping rights all over the country.

NEXT

Send all your friends' subscription-coupons along with the money you have collected to

HUNTING and FISHING
750 Sportsman's Building
Boston 16, Massachusetts

IMPORTANT!

For proper credit, all coupon-subscriptions must be sent in THE SAME ENVELOPE AT THE SAME TIME!

YOUR OWN SUBSCRIPTION CANNOT BE INCLUDED FOR CREDIT ON ANY GIFT. You *may* enter a subscription in your own name at the reduced subscription rate . . . but Circulation Rules will not allow this to be counted toward a gift.

HERE'S WHAT WE WILL DO WHEN YOUR COUPON-SUBSCRIPTIONS COME IN . . .

COUPON

FOR **ONE** COUPON
we'll send you the
OFFICIAL MARINE CORPS KNIFE

COUPON COUPON

OR; FOR **TWO** COUPONS
we'll send you the
AIR FORCE TYPE SUN GLASSES,
complete with Leatherette Case.

HUNTING AND FISHING MAGAZINE — TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SEE BACK PAGE

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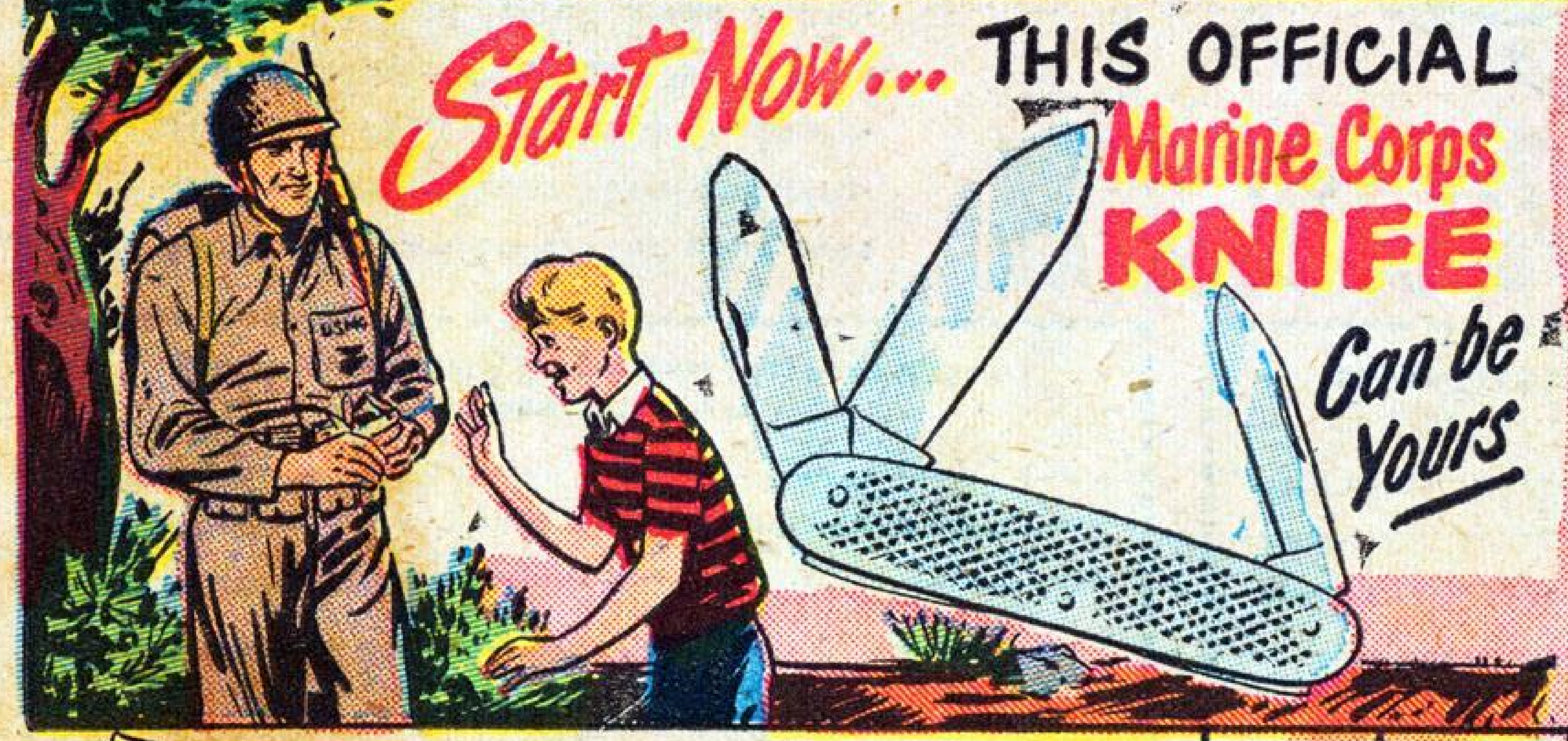


Start Now... THIS OFFICIAL Marine Corps KNIFE Can be Yours

Literally hundreds of uses make this knife an indispensable tool once it's in your hands. Used by the most rugged branch of the armed forces . . . built to take heavy punishment . . . last for years. Leathernecks swear by it.

Three chrome vanadium steel blades—Master Spear, Spay, and Pen—hold a sharp edge . . . are readily resharpened. Rust-proof, scratch-proof handle. Wonderful for tool box, tackle box, or hunting jacket.

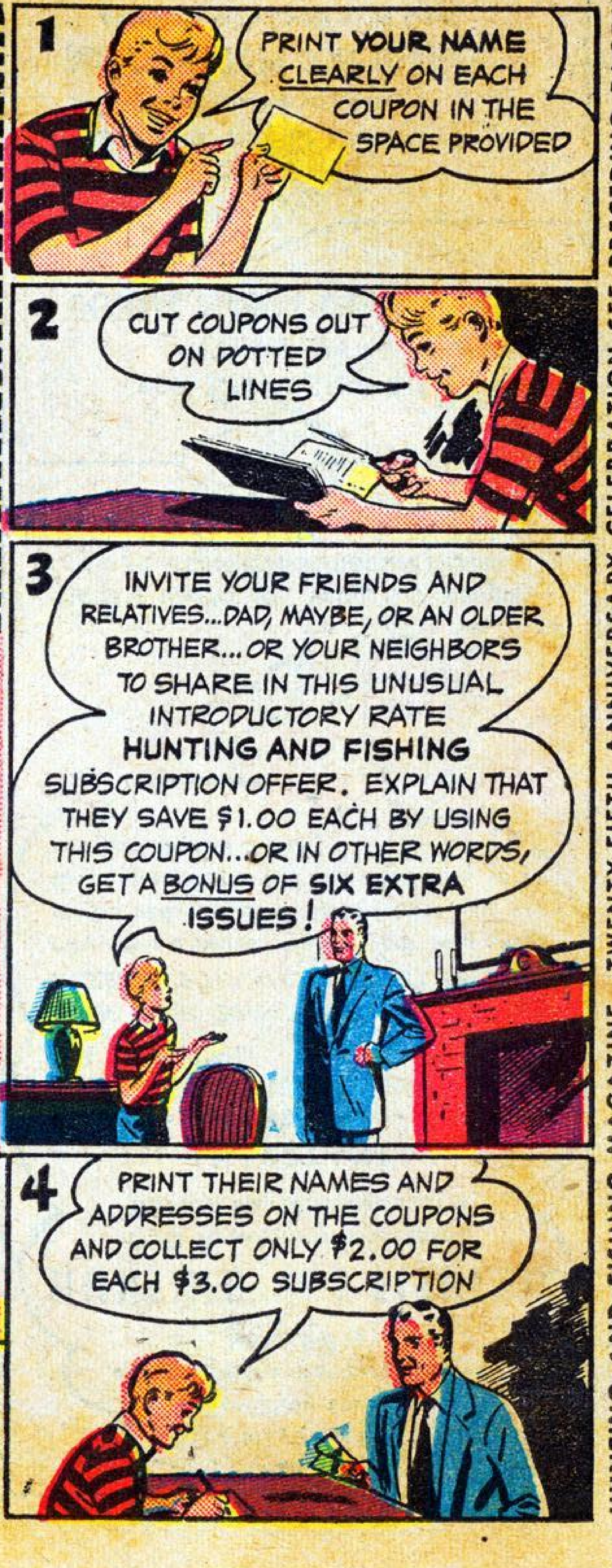
FOR MODEL MAKING

FOR CARVING—CUTTING—WHITTLING

FOR CAMPING—PICNICS

EXCLUSIVE WITH
Hunting & Fishing
MAGAZINE
EVERY ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE CARRIES A MAP OF THE UNITED STATES WITH AREAS INDICATED WHERE THE SPORTSMAN MAY LEGALLY TAKE GAME FISH AND BIG GAME FOR THAT MONTH.

HUNTING and FISHING ADVISES THE MAN OF THE OUTDOORS...."WHEN TO" . . . use a fishing plug or a fly, or a strip of bacon for bait . . . go fresh water fishing . . . go deep sea fishing . . . hunt for deer . . . hunt for 'coon . . . use a .30-30 caliber instead of a .30-06.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PRINT YOUR NAME CLEARLY ON EACH COUPON IN THE SPACE PROVIDED
2
CUT COUPONS OUT ON DOTTED LINES
3
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES...DAD, MAYBE, OR AN OLDER BROTHER...OR YOUR NEIGHBORS TO SHARE IN THIS UNUSUAL INTRODUCTORY RATE HUNTING AND FISHING SUBSCRIPTION OFFER. EXPLAIN THAT THEY SAVE $1.00 EACH BY USING THIS COUPON...OR IN OTHER WORDS, GET A BONUS OF SIX EXTRA ISSUES!
4
PRINT THEIR NAMES AND ADDRESSES ON THE COUPONS AND COLLECT ONLY $2.00 FOR EACH $3.00 SUBSCRIPTION

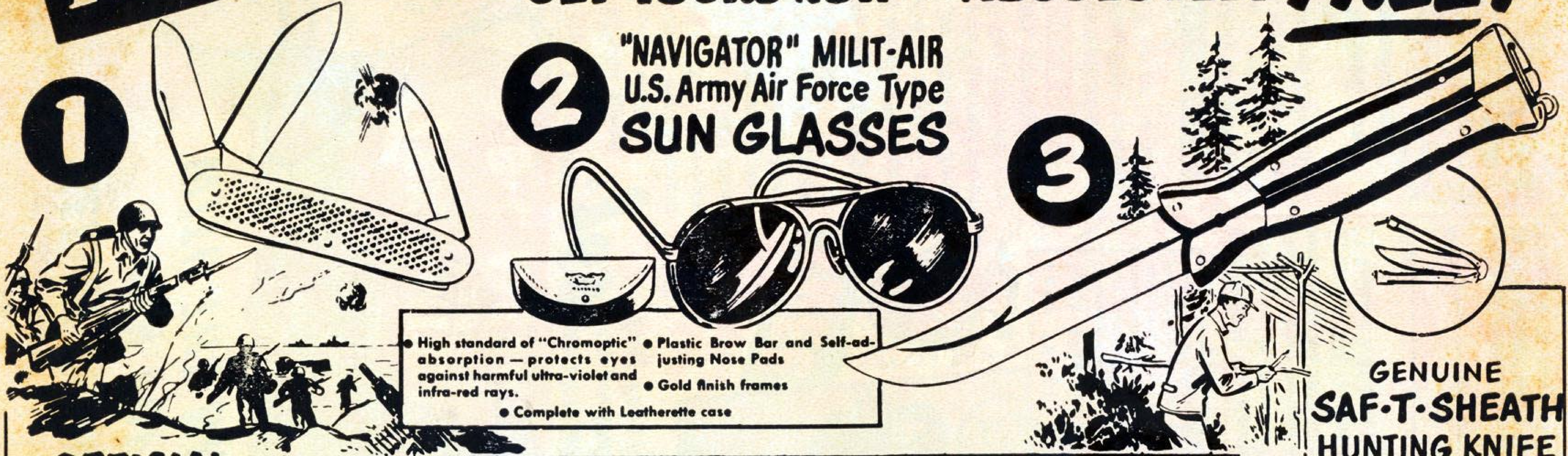
HUNTING AND FISHING MAGAZINE—TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SEE PRECEDING PAGES

HUNTING *and* FISHING

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION !

3 WONDERFUL GIFTS FOR YOU

GET YOURS NOW ... ABSOLUTELY FREE!



1

OFFICIAL MARINE CORPS KNIFE

- Three chrome vanadium steel blades
- Stainless steel handle—embossed, rust proof
- Brass-lined with nickel silver rivets
- Heavy-duty construction

2

"NAVIGATOR" MILIT-AIR U.S. Army Air Force Type SUN GLASSES

- High standard of "Chromoptic" absorption — protects eyes against harmful ultra-violet and infra-red rays.
- Plastic Brow Bar and Self-adjusting Nose Pads
- Gold finish frames
- Complete with Leatherette case

3

GENUINE SAF·T·SHEATH HUNTING KNIFE

- Cuts cold rolled steel
- Blade folds into handle
- Keen, super-hardened steel blade
- Fits easily in pocket

GET ONE ... OR GET ALL THREE

... AND THEY'RE EASY TO GET !

Each of the coupons on the following pages is worth $1.00 as ONE THIRD PAYMENT on a full 18 months subscription to HUNTING AND FISHING MAGAZINE. Your friends, neighbors, and relatives who like to hunt, fish, or go camping will be eager to make this remarkable saving on this up-to-the-minute outdoor sportsman's magazine.

For sending in their subscriptions on these coupons, YOU will receive one or *all* of these outstanding gifts shown above—depending on how many coupon subscriptions you send in.

YOU GET THE GIFTS . . . YOUR FRIENDS SAVE $1.00 EACH!

Follow these EASY STEPS!

TEX SMITH The HARMONICA MAN Says

"LET ME SHOW YOU HOW TO WIN POPULARITY WITH THE HARMONICA!"

The very first day..! Play any song you can whistle, hum, or sing.

Simple, Easy, Lots of Fun!

TEX SMITH'S FAMOUS A-B-C METHOD

only $1.69 complete with jam-packed Song Book!

Plus Fine 10-Hole HARMONICA FREE

Play your first tune 5 minutes after you start!

Just think! You play hillbilly songs, popular tunes, semi-classics, waltzes, old hymns...almost at once! My complete A-B-C picture course will thrill you because it's so downright easy! I've taught thousands from 6 to 60 to play who never played before...and I can show *you* how! No drills, no exercises! No need for special musical talent or knowledge!

MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND KEEP OLD ONES!

In no time at all you'll be able to pick up the harmonica anywhere, anytime and surprise your friends by playing. They'll be proud of you. And you'll get real pleasure from this new skill! Yes, now do your share at parties, dances, get-togethers.

PLASTIC HARMONICA FREE!

I send it with my picture method course! Plays beautiful rich tones. Easy to keep clean and sweet. You'll never be without it! It's a real comfort.

10-DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE:

If you are not completely delighted... if your friends don't admire and congratulate you on your new-found skill...just return course and harmonica in 10 days for full refund.

Tell Your Friends To Send, Too! Great Fun To Form Harmonica Band!

Make This EASY 5-Minute Test!

1st Minute—learn the secret of the numbers!

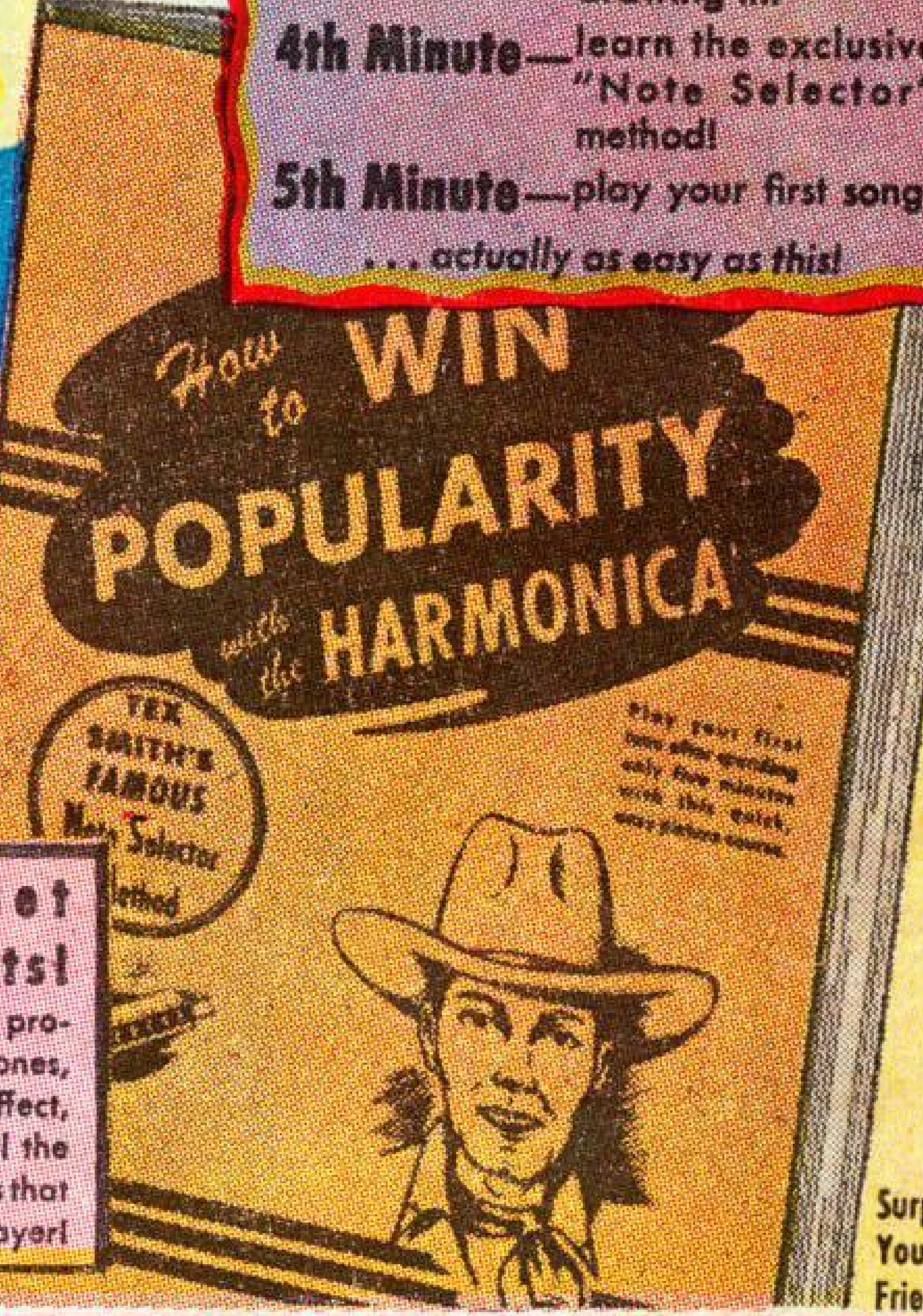
2nd Minute—learn the secret of blowing!

3rd Minute—learn the secret of drawing in!

4th Minute—learn the exclusive "Note Selector" method!

5th Minute—play your first song!

...actually as easy as this!


How to WIN POPULARITY with the HARMONICA
TEX SMITH'S FAMOUS Note Selector Method

Easy to get Trick Effects!

I'll show you how to produce church bell tones, ghost noises, train effect, sliding notes . . all the professional touches that mark the expert player!

Surprise Your Friends

GOSH!
DON'T RISK A CENT—JUST MAIL COUPON TODAY!

TEX SMITH, The Harmonica Man, Dept. 100H
150 Nassau St., New York 7, N. Y.

Dear Tex: Send me your A-B-C simple course on how to play the harmonica PLUS FREE 10-HOLE HARMONICA for my use.

☐ Send C.O.D. I pay postman $1.69 plus postage.
☐ Enclosed is $1.69. I save postage.

Name____________________

Address____________________

City, Zone, State____________________

10-DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE: If not completely satisfied, I'll return in 10 days for full purchase price refund.